

**THE TIMES**  
1785-1985  
**Tomorrow**

**Disarming trends**  
As the Geneva talks open, Nicholas Ashford explains the arguments that will take place

**Clues to killer**  
New handwriting evidence pinpoints Jack the Ripper

**Milan model**  
Suzy Menkes reports on the latest Italian fashion line

**Far pavilions**  
John Woodcock describes the decline of cricket in Australia

**Portfolio**  
**Two share £40,000**

Saturday's £40,000 prize in the Times Portfolio weekly competition was shared by two winners. Mr Malcolm Seymour, of Waldegrave Road, Twickenham, and Mr Peter Harris, of Lower Eastern Green Lane, Coventry. The prize had been doubled because there was no winner last week.

The £2,000 daily prize was shared by Mr Hubert Batchelor, of Bucks Hill, Kings Langley, Herts, and Mr William Hubbard, of Llandough, Penarth, South Glamorgan.

Another £2,000 can be won today. Portfolio list, page 16; rules and how to play, information service, back-page.

**Inquiry call on private use of NHS**

An urgent government investigation into allegations of fraud in the operation of private medicine within the National Health Service, has been demanded by Mr Michael Meschter, the Opposition spokesman on health.

He has calculated that the cost to the NHS since 1980 runs into tens of millions of pounds. Audit reports, page 3

**Talks on Ronan Point demolition**

Newham council will seek government backing for its plan to demolish Ronan Point and five other tower blocks, in spite of a report which said Ronan Point could be repaired.

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**Parkinson reply**

Mr Cecil Parkinson, criticized by Mr David Steel, the Liberal Party leader, on Saturday for his attempt to prevent distribution of the satirical magazine, *Private Eye*, gives reasons for his High Court injunction.

Letters, page 13

**Royal holiday**

The Prince and Princess of Wales are taking a short holiday in Jordan. They took up the offer of a long-standing invitation from King Hussein and left Britain yesterday.

**Tunnel gloom**

Annual debt repayments of £30 million threaten to undermine the economic benefits of the world's longest undersea tunnel opened yesterday in Japan.

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**MP's trade links**

A register of MPs' business interests and consultancies shows there has been a 50 per cent increase in the past year.

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**Three for Rush**

Ian Rush scored three goals when Liverpool beat Barnsley 4-0 to reach the semi-finals of the FA Cup.

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**Leader page, 13**  
Letters: BBC finances from Mr R. Sheldon, MP and Mr G. Buck; on National Theatre funding from Sir Peter Hall

**Leading articles:** UN and Africa; Sino-Soviet relations; Capital transfer tax; Features, pages 10-12

**How Lawson can help the family:** Russia's classroom cannot afford: Anne Sofer in the GLC trenches; Spectrum: the film they could not kill; Monday Page: the new homeless

**Obituary, page 14**  
Sir Charles Connell, Dr Peter Gay, Harry Catterick

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# Ten Israelis killed in suicide attack on troop carrier

**From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem**

A sweeping review of measures to prevent Israeli troop convoys from suicide attacks is expected to follow yesterday's massive bomb which killed at least 10 Israeli soldiers and injured many others less than two miles from the northern Galilee town of Metulla.

The seriousness of the attack is also thought likely to further increase the clamour inside Israel for the withdrawal from Lebanon to be drastically speeded up. This call is known to have support among some senior army officers.

According to Metulla residents contacted by telephone, the blast took place when a vehicle packed with explosives was driven head-on into a large Israeli troop-carrying truck known as a "safari". Several hours later the army spokesman was still unable to give official confirmation because all the families of the dead had not yet been contacted.

The blast took place in a border region of occupied Lebanon generally regarded by Israel as the least dangerous and where the recent severe restrictions on Lebanese residents - such as an order that at least three people must be inside any vehicle on the road - had not so far been imposed.

When I drove down the road with an Israeli armed escort last Thursday, the soldiers appeared much more relaxed than those serving in the coastal region where most violence has taken place in recent weeks.

The location and severity of the attack, which broke windows in Metulla, sent shock waves through Israel's northern towns and settlements. These have recently been repeatedly threatened with attacks by Shia Muslim leaders vowing to react



Israel's bloody and increasing violent pullout from Lebanon. Mr Shimon Peres, the Prime Minister, had been condemning the recent car bomb attacks at a Cabinet meeting and once again denying flatly that Israel had any involvement in the Beirut blast.

Yesterday's suicide attack may be seen by foreign observers as a further serious escalation in the guerrilla war which is now being waged in southern Lebanon and threatening to spill over the border.

A similar type of attack was made against an Israeli convoy a month ago near the coastal town of Tyre and more are expected to follow in the months before Israel's final withdrawal.

provisionally scheduled for some time in September.

In political circles, there was speculation that further restrictions on vehicles travelling on the roads of southern Lebanon may now be imposed by Israel. But it was acknowledged that such restrictions tend only to reinforce hostility among the local population and even alienate those inhabitants, mostly Christians, who have some sympathy for Israel.

Mr Reuven Weinberg, manager of a Metulla hotel, told *The Times*: "This attack has frightened everyone living in the town very much. It's a reminder that we are soon going to have to face a different sort of life again when attacks against us will once more force us down into the shelters."

Mr Weinberg added: "It seems that the driver of the vehicle did not care who bit for his own life. He just drove straight into the truck in which I estimate about 30 Israelis were travelling. According to people on the spot, the scene of the blast was very terrible indeed."

The attack, which took place in broad daylight at about 2 pm, followed a bloody weekend in which there had been more than 14 other attacks on Israeli troops in Lebanon in which five soldiers were injured.

Before news of the blast both Mr Peres and Mr Yitzhak Shamir, the Foreign Minister, had stated separately that the crackdown against the Shia Muslim villages in southern Lebanon would continue.

● **SIDON:** Israeli helicopters machine-gunned civilians crossing the Israeli front line along side-roads north of Tyre yesterday, wounding two, security sources said (Reuters reports).

Israelis retreat, page 5



An Israeli soldier injured in the attack is wheeled into a Tel Aviv hospital for an operation.

## Chancellor to boost jobs in Budget

**By David Smith, Economics Correspondent**

A jobs package, with the emphasis on reversing the rising trend of unemployment, will be the theme of Mr Nigel Lawson's Budget next week.

The Chancellor has rejected City calls for an austerity Budget to help bolster the pound. Instead, the financial targets announced next week will be broadly in line with the existing medium-term financial strategy.

Although the Government remains convinced that the route to lower unemployment is via low inflation and reduction of interest rates, recent events have underlined the urgency of action on jobs.

Lloyds Bank, in its international financial outlook published today, predicts a Budget-time cut in interest rates, with base rates likely to fall from 14 per cent to about 12.5 per cent. This would head off the threatened rise in mortgage rates by the building societies when they meet in March 21, but it would leave base rates a damaging three points above their level at the end of last year.

The expected jobs package will combine amendments to National Insurance arrangements with an extension of the community programme and a rise in income tax thresholds and allowances.

National Insurance contributions may be waived for young workers or for those taken on from the ranks of the long-term unemployed. Alternatively, an across-the-board reduction in employers' National Insurance contributions of 1 per cent could be announced.

Some Conservative backbench MPs, who have urged the Chancellor to announce a general reduction in NI contributions, believe the latter route will be followed.

Raising of tax thresholds and allowances, probably by 5 to 7 percentage points more than needed to compensate for inflation, is also expected in line with Conservative promises and to boost incentives and ameliorate the so-called employment trap. This exists at the lower end of the income scale, when the tax system at present acts as a disincentive for the unemployed considering taking a low-paid job.

● The Institute of Alcohol Studies has urged the Chancellor to reverse last year's 18p a bottle cut in duty on wine. It says that wine drinking rose sharply last year, while beer and whiskey consumption both fell.

Rates outlook, page 17

## MacGregor insists on tough line

**By David Felton, Labour Correspondent**

Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, yesterday disclosed the guidelines sent to area managers on the reemployment of miners dismissed during the strike. He emphasized that the board would not take back those convicted of deliberate sabotage or violence against fellow workers, the police or the public.

He was speaking on the eve of what is expected to be an almost complete return to work after decisions by Kent and Scottish miners to end the dispute. Militants in Kent will try to undermine a return to normal working "but board officials expect few difficulties."

Mr MacGregor said the board had to keep faith with miners who worked during the strike. "One has to be tough with people who go out of their way to break the law of the land, particularly in doing violence to their fellow citizens. We have to see that there are no rewards for that," he said.

Senior board officials maintained their determination yesterday not to have formal negotiations with the National Union of Mineworkers until a full return to normality.

Mr MacGregor's definition of serious acts of violence will be interpreted by local managers, but last night there appeared to be scope for reinstating several hundred of the 677 miners still dismissed.

A Harris opinion poll in *The Observer* yesterday showed that 72 per cent of those interviewed thought the board ought to grant an amnesty to all except miners convicted of violence.

Mr MacGregor, speaking on BBC radio's *World This Week* programme said the finding supported the board's policy.

A MORI poll, conducted for Channel 4's *Labour World* programme, indicated that 57 per cent of NUAM members would back Mr Arthur Scargill in any election for the union presidency. Working miners want to force Mr Scargill to stand for reelection under last year's Trade Union Act.

Last week the coal board produced almost 40 per cent of its pre-strike weekly production of two million tonnes and said that it would be "some time" before normal production levels are reached.

Despite overtime being worked in Nottinghamshire at the weekend for the first time since October 1983, the overtime ban held firm in Lancashire where miners refused to sanction weekend working. The board said that three pits, Bickershaw and Parsonage, near Leigh, and Golborne, near Wigan, will not produce coal today or tomorrow while maintenance is carried out.

● The Yorkshire area council of Nacoda, the pit deputies' union, voted at the weekend to urge union's national conference in June to demand Mr MacGregor's dismissal.

MPs' plea, steel peril, page 2

## Karamalis quits over plan to cut his powers

**From Mario Modiano, Athens**

President Constantine Karamalis of Greece resigned last night two months before his five-year term expired in protest over Greek Government plans for constitutional reform.

In a letter to Parliament he said he was relinquishing his presidential duties "in the light of developments in which I am unable to cooperate". Sources close to Mr Karamalis said the move was a protest against the "perilous new course" he believed the Government of Mr Andreas Papandreu was setting.

Mr Karamalis, who was 78 on Friday, announced his decision 24 hours after Mr Papandreu backed out of a pledge to support his reelection and unexpectedly set in motion constitutional reforms designed to emasculate the presidential powers.

Under the proposed reforms, most presidential prerogatives concerning the dissolution of Parliament, the holding of referendums, and addressing the nation directly, would be placed under Government control, along with the President's right to declare an emergency.

Mr Karamalis, who was the architect of the 1975 Greek Constitution, is known to believe that vital checks and balances are a vital deterrent to any abuse of power by Government or President. In more than four years as President, he has never made use of his prerogatives.

Mr Papandreu confirmed in a letter to the outgoing President the impeccable manner in which Mr Karamalis had discharged his duties.

Papandreu plan, page 7

## Star Wars teams show goodwill

**From Nicholas Ashford, Geneva**

American and Soviet negotiators arrived here this weekend preaching a similar message of peace and goodwill which masked the deep differences which divided the two superpowers as they prepared to embark on a major new round of arms talks.

Mr Max Kampelman and Mr Viktor Karpov, the leaders of the American and Soviet delegations, both stressed in their arrival statements that their shared objective was the reduction and eventual elimination of nuclear weapons. They pledged themselves to approach their task in a "patient", "businesslike" and "constructive" manner.

However, both sides acknowledged that the three interlocking sets of talks, dealing with intermediate range (INF), strategic and space weapons, will be extremely difficult and protracted, perhaps lasting for several years.

First to arrive on Saturday was the American delegation. Apart from Mr Kampelman, who will also lead the American side in the space weapons talks, it included Mr John Tower, who will head the US delegation on strategic weapons, and Mr Maynard Gitman, the negotiator on INF weapons.

Mr Kampelman said the US wanted energetically to build a bridge to a future world - a world which will be at peace devoid of terror and free of the threat of nuclear destruction.

The three negotiators on the Soviet side are Mr Karpov, who will head the strategic weapons talks, Mr Yuri Kvitsinski (space weapons), and Mr Aleksei Obukhov (INF missiles). Mr Karpov said on arrival yesterday that the Soviet Union hoped the talks would "prevent an arms race in space and terminate it on earth."

President Reagan has given his negotiators wide latitude in talks on INF and strategic weapons, but not on space weapons, which are generally perceived as the most difficult of the three rounds of talks.



Mr Viktor Karpov: Keen to start the Geneva talks.

**Healey says Nato could break up**

Mr Denis Healey, Labour's foreign affairs spokesman, yesterday said that the Nato alliance could break up if the United States insisted on pursuing the strategic defence initiative at the risk of losing disarmament agreement in Geneva. (Anthony Bevins writes).

Mr Healey said in the Channel 4 *Face the Press* programme that if the so-called "Star Wars" research risked deep cuts in the nuclear stockpile, then Europe should be prepared to stage "an almighty row" with the Americans.

Mr Healey wanted to get back to constructive dialogue with the Americans

## What the Church's 'rudest bishop' said to his flock

**By Alan Hamilton**

Religious literature will be enriched this weekend by the publication of the collected barbs, aphorisms and ripostes of a retired bishop once described as the rudest man in the Church of England.

The Rt Rev Douglas Feaver, who until last year was bishop of Peterborough, has been authorized by Mr John Kelly, the diocesan information officer, in a book to raise funds for the Church of England Children's Society.

Both author and anthologist swore to *The Times* with perfect politeness yesterday that the publication of well over 100 choice Feaverisms had engendered no ill-will, as most of them had been delivered in the first instance with tongue firmly in cheek.

Of a fellow bishop: "He'd believe anything provided it's not in Holy Scripture."

Of a fellow member of the House of Lords: "His mouth is for export and his head has no entrance."

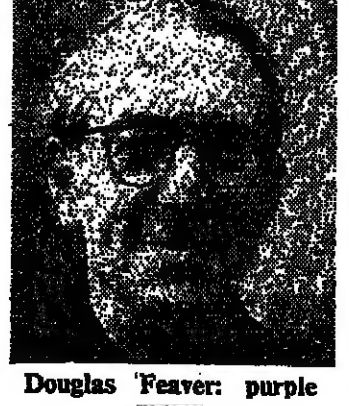
To an MP who approached him with outstretched hand: "I never shake hands with members of the Lower House."

Of women members of the general synod: "They have seething bosoms, but nothing above."

Of the general synod: "I wonder when I sit there why the Church should be asked for money to pay to keep this cuckoo going."

Of a proffered cup of very weak China tea: "It must have been invented by the SDP."

Of any unfulfilled ambitions



Douglas Feaver: purple prose.

To a minibus full of clergy wives arriving for a meeting: "I thought it was the hearse coming."

To a rural dean's wife in slacks: "I don't like women in trousers." To which she replied, observing his purple cassock: "And I don't like men in skirts."

Of babies: "I can't think why (mothers love them). All babies do is leak at both ends."

To a Mothers' Union member who splashed him with scalding tea: "Ouch, you silly old trout." The lady was deaf, and simply smiled apologetically.

To a fellow governor of Oakham School, who said on a winter day he wished he was canoeing on Rutland Water: "Canoeing? In this weather I'd rather be canoeing!"

Mr Kelly said yesterday that, in response to a request, he had received 300 offerings from parishioners. Some, he said darkly, he could not publish "for a variety of reasons."

The bishop, interrupted a lunch of steak and kidney pie yesterday, reminded *The Times* that the former Dean of Westminster, who had labelled him the Church's rudest man, had gone on to say: "He doesn't know it and he doesn't mean it."

The bishop added: "I would not dream of stopping this book; my family think it is great fun. Of course, all my remarks have been taken out of context."

Purple Feaver (published by John Kelly, 53 Ridgeway, Weston Favell, Northampton; £1.10

## Eleventh hour cave-in by GLC

**By Hugh Clayton**

The Greater London Council voted last night to adopt a legal rate lower than the ceiling allowed by the Government under the rate-capping law. The vote came 15 minutes before an effective legal deadline after which councillors could have been disqualified from office and made bankrupt for failing to fix a rate.

Mr Kenneth Livingstone, the leader of the council, said afterwards that the vote could impose spending cuts of £55 million from the original Labour proposal to spend well over £800 million in the coming year. He said he would resign as leader if the council failed to avoid making cuts in services and its labour force.

Earlier, 10 left-wingers joined Conservatives to vote out a legal budget proposed by Mr Steve Bundred who is Labour chairman of the finance committee of the Inner London Education Authority as well as GLC councillor.

His budget, which included some scope for extra spending, was supported by Mrs Frances Morrell, leader of the authority. "The policy of the party is no rate", she said. Now that is not an option," Labour members who voted against the budget included Mr John McDonnell, deputy leader of the council, and Mr Tony Banks, Labour MP for Newham North West.

If councils such as the GLC fail to adopt legal budgets on time members who vote against can be disqualified from all public offices. Deadlock continued yesterday in a meeting that lasted more than 20 hours because Conservatives refused to vote for the full rate ceiling allowed under the Government's rate-capping laws. Labour left-wingers stuck to their view that party policy required them to refuse to fix a rate solidarity with smaller Labour councils that have already refused to fix theirs.

A spokesman for Mr Kenneth Livingstone, Labour leader of the council, said afterwards that it had been made clear to Labour's left-wing opponents of rate-fixing that rejection of the Bundred plan would destroy the last chance of avoiding a legal budget that imposes spending cuts.

The Labour split was intensified by deep arguments about policy and tactics between Mr Livingstone and Mr McDonnell. As councillors ploughed through their twelfth amendment last night pressure on the them was heightened by repeated assurances from ministers that failure to fix a legal rate by the nearing midnight deadline could lead to disqualification from office and to personal bankruptcy for councillors.

Ministers are also refusing to bargain about spending limits with Labour-led councils that refuse to fix rates.

Anne Sofer, page 12

## The British Home at Streatham cares for over 100 incurable people of all ages



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Purple Feaver (published by John Kelly, 53 Ridgeway, Weston Favell, Northampton; £1.10



# Government likely to face renewed pressure for closure of steel works

By Edward Townsend, Industrial Correspondent

The prospect of renewed pressure to close more capacity in Britain's state-owned steel industry now looms large after the end of the miners' strike, with the large Ravenscraig steel works in Scotland once again under threat.

Top management in the steel industry, who have used ingenious measures to keep the mills operating during the strike, are now expecting the Government to apply itself urgently to the industry's difficulties and to "bite the bullet" over the closures issue.

After the electricity supply industry, steel has been the worst financial casualty of the strike with the attendant blacking by railmen of the iron ore and coal deliveries to the mills.

But with the use of fleets of lorries, and the highly-expensive chartering of small ships to transport raw materials to ports close to the steel works, the impact on output has been minimized.

The cost, however, has been very high. Scunthorpe mill alone has been losing £1.25 million a week and the total additional cost of the strike to the British Steel Corporation could rise to nearly £200 million.

That extra cost, the BSC says, is the Government's problem. What it wants now is a speedy decision on the options for the future of the industry presented to the Department of Trade and Industry by Sir Robert Haslam, chairman of BSC, last spring. One of those options was the closure of one of the five big integrated steel works and the loss of up to 15,000 jobs.

But the issue is far from simple. Overlaying the BSC's domestic troubles is the European Commission's steel crisis regime which involves a mixture of voluntary and mandatory minimum price levels and production quotas, the eventual phasing out of all state aids to steel, and the impact of the falling pound. Most of the BSC's raw materials are priced in US dollars.

As the miners' strike progressed, and the steel mills continued to operate, the political difficulty of closing more mills in the face of the "loyalty" of the steel workers was said to be growing. Mr Bill Sirs, outgoing general secretary of the Iron and Steel Trades Confederation (ISTC) gave a warning that his members would not be "sacrificial lambs" and any unofficial support for the NUM evaporated.

His successor, the equally moderate Mr Roy Evans, said last month: "If we are to have stability, we need industrial peace, and it is essential that we all observe the procedures and agreements honourably concluded."

The corporation is now keen on having a new set of objectives, the central one being to make a decent profit, agreed by the Government without a detailed and restricting corporate plan.

Recent results show that without the effect of the strike, the BSC would be in the black at the pre-interest level, a remarkable achievement for an industry almost destroyed by recession and lack of competitiveness only a few years ago.

## More MPs become consultants

By Anthony Bevis, Political Correspondent

There has been a 50 per cent increase in business and other consultancies held by MPs in the past year, according to the latest Register of Members' Interests.

The register, expected to be published this month, shows that another 23 MPs have taken on the extra work involved in being consultants and advisers to outside interests to supplement their basic £16,904 salary.

Altogether, the 137 consultant MPs have registered 285 consultancies, an increase of 110 over the past 12 months.

The biggest increase is accounted for by Mr Peter Fry, Conservative MP for Wellingborough, who last year declared a directorship of Political Research and Communications International. In the latest register, Mr Fry disclosed that his clients in PRCI include Kentucky Fried Chicken (KFC), Airbus Industries, National Bus Company, Pye Telecom, and Thames Water.

In the last year Mr Fry has also become a director of a company called CBA Public Affairs, whose clients include Cinzano (UK) Ltd, and Hewlett Packard Ltd. Mr Fry lists a total of 20 clients in all.

Mr John Watts, Conservative MP for Slough, who has registered consultancies with Rank Hovis McDougall and Price Waterhouse in the past year, said that neither client had asked him to raise an issue in the Commons, but he fed them with "parliamentary angles" which might interest or affect them.

## Ultimatum as Post Office talks resume

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

Critical productivity talks between the Post Office and union officials re-open tomorrow, against a background of management threats to impose new working practices over the heads of the unions in three weeks time if no agreement has been reached.

Delegates to a special conference of the Union of Communication Workers (UCW) have refused to give their leaders a free hand in the new round of talks.

The main sticking point will be the Post Office's demand that it should be allowed to use 20,000 part-time workers instead of the present 8,500, a ceiling figure agreed with the union.

Mr Alan Tiffin, the UCW's general secretary, said last night: "I can state categorically that they are not going to get an agreement on the part-time workers, and if they say they are going ahead with it, come what may, then I think we are heading for serious trouble."

## MPs to argue for dismissed miners

From Ronald Faux, Perth

Mr Donald Dewar, shadow Secretary of State for Scotland, is to lead a delegation of Scottish Labour MPs to Mr Ian MacGregor, chairman of the National Coal Board, to demand an independent review of the Scottish coal industry on behalf of the 180 Scottish miners dismissed during the coal strike.

Speaking at the close of the Labour Party's Scottish conference in Perth, which was dominated by the aftermath of the strike, Mr Dewar said the delegation would emphasize to Mr MacGregor the benefits of a sensible, flexible policy in Scotland. It would be a terrible mistake to have arbitrary dismissals for minor offences when other parts of the country were taking a different attitude.

Mr Dewar told the conference that men were being bundled out of their careers for unsupportable reasons. It would be no more common justice to have an independent review. Scotland had suffered the highest percentage of workers dismissed during the strike and he was outraged by the way the men had been doubly penalized.

The conference reflected a strong will to close the divisions between the miners and the Labour Party, although miners' delegates remained clearly dis-

enchanted with the level of support they had been given during the strike.

Mr Alec Shanks, a young miner from Monktonhall colliery, near Edinburgh, said that in spite of the biased media, police violence, bribes to return, starvation, hardship and lack of support from TUC leaders, 100,000 miners and their families had stayed out.

"We were disappointed at the less than total commitment of the parliamentary leadership of the Labour party," he said. Now Mr Neil Kinnock, the Labour party leader, had shown he was less than 100 per cent behind reinstatement of all the miners victimized during the strike, Mr Shanks said. He gained loud applause when he declared that the strike marked the end of shadow-boxing and the beginning of the real fight for a socialist Britain.

The conference approved a strong resolution condemning the police operations against striking miners. It called for the control of the police by local authority committees with power to appoint and dismiss chief constables and senior officers and responsibility for day-to-day policing policies and the right for the police to belong to a trade union and to take industrial action.

## Drug abuse 'Tories' fault

A senior member of the Scottish Labour Party yesterday blamed the Government's economic policies and unemployment for part of a drug epidemic which he said was sweeping Scotland.

Mr Gordon Craig, division officer of the white collar union, ASTMS, and a member of the Scottish Labour Party executive, told the party conference in Perth that Scotland was suffering from a drug epidemic. There were 6,000 drug addicts in Scotland, 3,000 of them in Glasgow, and the problem was growing at 40 per cent a year.

The conference agreed to set up a working party to investigate the problem and called for a programme to combat drug abuse. Mr Craig said the price

of hard drugs had dropped dramatically, although addicts needed £40 a day to satisfy their habit. Seventy per cent of burglaries in parts of Edinburgh were committed by drug addicts.

Although the Government had claimed there was no link between joblessness and drug abuse, Mr Craig said: "Perhaps it is misguided to put all the blame for drugs on to unemployment and deprivation, but to ignore it is simply wrong and mischievous."

The Times overseas selling prices: Australia Sch 29; Belgium B 50; Canada Cdn 70; France F 100; Germany D 100; Greece G 100; Hong Kong HK 100; India IN 100; Italy I 100; Japan Y 100; New Zealand NZ 100; Norway N 100; Pakistan PK 100; Portugal P 100; Singapore S 100; South Africa SA 100; Sweden S 100; Switzerland S 100; Taiwan T 100; Thailand TH 100; USA \$ 100; Yugoslavia Y 100.



The prime suspect in the Harrods bombing (right) photographed with two IRA terrorists in Northampton

## Special Branch head leads terror hunt

The head of the Special Branch is poised to take control of Scotland Yard's fight against terrorism after disclosures that the prime suspect in the IRA bombing of Harrods store in London escaped during an undercover police operation.

A decision is expected soon on an internal report which recommends that the anti-terrorist squad should be placed under the control of Mr Colin Herrett, deputy assistant commissioner, who is also in

charge of the Special Branch. Scotland Yard confirmed yesterday that Mr John Dellow, assistant commissioner (crime), was considering the proposal which was unrelated to the wide-ranging reorganization of policing in London.

The move comes after reports of a dispute between the two over an incident in January last year in which the man police most want to question about the Harrods bomb got away after being photographed by detectives at Northampton railway station. The Harrods bombing killed six people.

Anti-terrorist squad officers later claimed that they had not been told about the surveillance operation mounted by the Special Branch.

Police know the identity of the bearded "third man" in the picture they took at the railway station but are refusing to identify him publicly.

He was seen with Paul Kavanagh and Natalino Vella, who received long jail sentences last week for their parts in the London bombing campaign by the IRA in 1981.

Scotland Yard last night denied that there was a dispute over the failure of the Northampton operation but there are indications that relations between the two units have been strained.

But the hoped-for developments on the Anglo-Irish front are not matched internally within the north where ministers are doubtful whether Unionists and Nationalists are willing to reach agreement on a new system of partnership government.

He also recognizes, along with leading unionists, that during such a crisis the republic would come under intense political pressure to withdraw diplomatic representatives.

Mr Hurd does not favour the republic opening diplomatic offices in Belfast for fear that a building would provide an easy focus for "loyalists", either to

attack or demonstrate outside. He also recognizes, along with leading unionists, that during such a crisis the republic would come under intense political pressure to withdraw diplomatic representatives.

Mr Hurd has been pursuing a "twin track" approach to the north's problems, searching for an internal solution and offering the republic's government a consultative role in the province's affairs. Officials are pleased Mr Hurd's frequent references to Dublin's legitimate interest in the province,

apart from the difficulty of finding someone acceptable to both sides, Mr Hurd remains unconvinced about the willingness to compromise among the province's political leaders.

## Pessimism over ending Ulster deadlock

From Richard Ford, Belfast

The Government is deeply pessimistic about the chances of breaking the political deadlock in Northern Ireland and reaching agreement on a measure of devolved government in the province.

Although Mr Douglas Hurd, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, is determined to get inter-party talks started once the local government elections in May are over, he is not hopeful about their outcome.

In his latest initiative he has hinted at using an intermediary to help break the stalemate, but

the need for it to be represented in a better way, has not produced uproar in the Unionist community.

The Government is understood to believe that agreement with Dr Garret Fitzgerald's government may be possible, and would like the present round of discussions to be concluded within the next five months.

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## Talks today at ministry on demolition of Ronan Point

By Charles Kneivitt, Architecture Correspondent

The London borough of Newham plans to demolish Ronan Point and five other 22-storey tower blocks on the Freemasons' Road estate, in spite of last month's report from the Building Research Establishment that the block could be repaired structurally. Council officials are meeting the Department of the Environment today to try to win government support for their proposal. Mr Fred Jones, chairman of housing at Newham, wants the block to be dismantled scientifically so that the full extent of its faults may be examined and the lessons learned by other councils with Taylor Woodrow-Anglian (TWA) blocks of similar design. Building Design Partnership, the council's independent consultants, estimate essential repairs to the block would cost £28,600 a flat, or £52,000 a flat for "desirable" work. The council intends to replace the blocks with 900 new homes at an estimated cost of £45 million, or £45,500 a house. Three other TWA blocks in Newham built after the Ronan Point disaster of 1968, and which feature a different flank wall joint which has caused most difficulties, are to be refurbished. There are thought to be at least 90 high-rise TWA blocks in England: 20 of them, including six at Newham, are of 14 or more storeys and are thought to be most at risk. A detailed report on TWA blocks, prepared by the Building Research Establishment, is due for publication next month. But Mr Ian Gow, Minister for Housing and Construction, has written to six councils, including Newham, with the worst blocks, recommending that safety checks be carried out. Hammersmith and Fulham council, in west London, is carrying out immediate remedial work to its two TWA blocks, Harropp Point and Lanny Point. Haringey council, north London, also has two blocks on the Broadwater Farm estate. The council is awaiting a report commissioned from Building Design Partnership on the Kenley and Northolt blocks next week. Sunderland has seven TWA blocks of 16 storeys which are thought to be almost identical in construction to Ronan Point. The blocks were modified in 1970. About 400 tenants on the Ocean estate, Stepney, are being moved out of three blocks while repairs costing more than £2 million are carried out.

## CID training improved

New training procedures are to be introduced by Scotland Yard to improve the effectiveness of young detectives. The changes, to be introduced on April 15, will involve up to 350 new detective constables each year, together with about 150 aspiring detectives. A three-month entry course will concentrate on officers' motivation, and involve a large degree of self-teaching from training modules on which there will be continuous assessment. The law-based course at the Metropolitan Police detective training school will be replaced by one concentrating on fraud, burglary, assaults, and criminal damage.



Mr James Callaghan and Mr Neil Kinnock, past and present Labour leaders, with a chess set presented to Mr Callaghan at a dinner on Saturday to mark his 40 years as a Cardiff MP.

## Farmer's gun guard on deer

By David Nicholson-Lord

Gangs of poachers drawn to deer-hunting by high venison prices are driving farmers to extreme counter-measures. Mr Tony Bennett, aged 30, who farms at Bickleigh in the upper Exe valley, will tonight mount armed guard on 50 acres of wooded Devon uplands, grazing for his herd of 70 Red deer, each animal worth more than £500. Around them will be several thousand feet of high-tensile net fencing, barbed wire entanglement, padlocked gates, spotlights and a mains electric circuit capable of delivering a stun shock of 2,000 volts every two seconds. Should any poacher succeed in breaching such impressive defences, he will come up against Mr Bennett, prowling the woods and hillsides in the dead of night, armed with one rifle and two shotguns. Mr Bennett, who learned deer farming on a station at Taumarunui, on New Zealand's North Island, told *The Times*: "If I see anyone on the place with a gun I will shoot them. I have got to that stage. I will have no hesitation at all. It is my livelihood that is at risk."

Highly-organized poaching gangs, their targets ranging from salmon and pheasants to deer, have increasingly troubled Devon landowners and game conservators in recent years. Mr Bennett blames unemployment and says he has some sympathy with their position. But in January, only a few weeks after abandoning dairy production and investing heavily in a new herd of Red deer, he lost six hinds in four days. A spokesman for Devon and Cornwall police yesterday declined to comment on Mr Bennett's security measures.

## Link-up of Japanese islands nears completion £30m debt hangs over tunnel

From David Watts, Tokyo

With a blast of earth and a flood of light, two Japanese islands were yesterday linked for the first time by the world's longest undersea tunnel. With three *banzais*, hard-hatted workers set about the most enjoyable part of the ceremony — cracking open 72-litre casks of sake.

The celebrations are likely to be short-lived. The tunnel is a remarkable achievement. Twenty-one years of work and numerous lives have gone into it. Now it is finished, nobody knows quite what to do with it. As the *Yamato Shimbun* put it in an unusually direct leading article: "To put it plainly, the expected economic attractions of the tunnel have vanished."

The tunnel, between Honshu and Hokkaido, was first proposed as part of the Imperial Japanese Plan for East Asia. Another tunnel would have linked Hokkaido to the Asian mainland and the Manchurian Railway, running south through Korea, would have linked Kyushu by a third tunnel forming a circular route to Tokyo.

The idea was revived after the war but pursued in a dilatory fashion until 1954 when a terrible typhoon struck the "Salty River", as the straits between Honshu and Hokkaido are known. Five inter-island ferries, carrying 1,400 people died.

Construction began in 1972. The tunnel was to have been finished in seven years but flooding in 1976 put the project behind schedule and raised costs to almost £2.5 billion.

There lies the rub. The tunnel has been built with borrowed money. Annual repayments will be £30 million a year before Japan National Railways makes a yen running services from 1987.

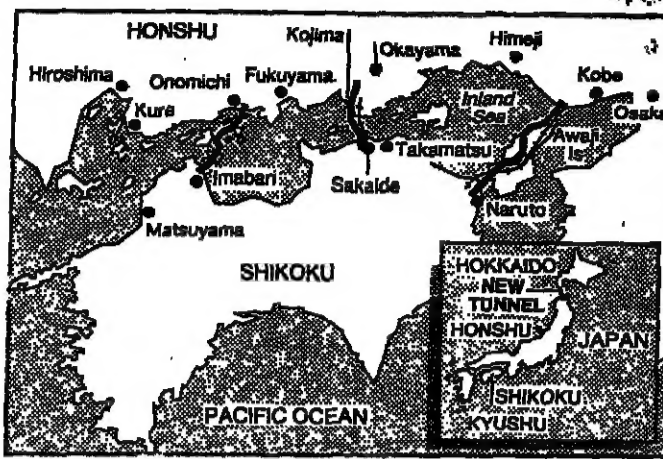
That is the same year that the national railway system is due to be privatized. Few prospective buyers want to be saddled with such a guaranteed loss maker on top of the system's staggering accumulated debt.

As they finished yesterday, some workers said they were dreaming of the day when bullet trains would whiz through their pride and joy to the unspoiled beauties of Hokkaido. Alas, that would only add to the bills.

Since the tunnel was conceived, air travel and car ownership have galloped ahead of the planner's estimates. A committee examining what to do believes the best thing would be to put in conventional rail tracks and carry visitors' cars on freight trains. But if tourist buses and lorries are to be carried there would have to be bullet train-standard tracks anyway.

Who would pay the extra cost of the track? None of the local governments are keen as they face lost jobs in the ferry business, which will not immediately be made up in new tourist business.

For the moment, the people of Honshu and Hokkaido are content that they have gone into the record books with their 33.85-kilometre tunnel buried 100 metres below the ocean bed.



## Bridges bring hope of new industry

By Simon Scott Plummer

Huge steel towers are rising above the picturesque waters of the Inland Sea as Japan prepares to complete the linking of its four main islands by road and rail. If everything goes according to plan, by 1988 Honshu and Shikoku will be joined by a string of bridges.

By the turn of the century, the Japanese hope to have built three bridge routes across the Inland Sea, two of them carrying a big dual-carriageway motorway. The cost of this gigantic project is put at 3,360 billion yen (about £11 billion) and this could be a conservative estimate.

The economic argument for an investment of this scale is that rapid and reliable transport between the two islands will raise living standards on both sides, particularly in Shikoku, which will be able to deliver its farm products more easily to the great cities of Honshu.

It is hoped also that the bridges will bring high-tech companies to the interior of the island; at present, industry is concentrated on the coast. Two bridges are already open on the western route between Onomichi and Imabari and a third is due for completion in 1988. On the eastern route, from Kobe to Naruto, a suspension bridge between Shikoku and Awaji Island will be finished this year. On the central route the substructure and some of the towers for the three main bridges will be ready by the spring.

Once completed, the project will contain nine of the 20 longest suspension bridges in the world. The Kojima-Sakaide route alone will have bridges with central spans of 1,100 metres, 990 metres and 940 metres.

Environmental considerations are important in an area which has been a national park for 50 years. There are about 950 islands in the Inland Sea and the gnarled pines and red torii rising among their granite rocks are among the most beautiful sights of Japan.

Mr Hiroatsu Takahashi, president of the bridge authority, told *The Times* that the choice of route and of type of bridge had been influenced by such considerations.

## India may settle in Bhopal suit

Delhi (Reuters) — India is prepared to forego litigation and settle with Union Carbide on compensation for victims of the poison gas leak that killed at least 2,500 people in Bhopal, the Minister of Law, Mr Ashoke Sen, said yesterday.

Mr Sen said a settlement depended on the compensation offered by the United States company. Union Carbide said on Saturday that it preferred negotiation to litigation to arrive at speedy and fair compensation for the victims. About 125,000 people were injured in the leak last December.

Authoritative sources said pressure had grown on the Government to settle the case after India announced on Friday that it would file a suit on behalf of all victims in a US court. An out-of-court settlement would circumvent suits already filed in the US.

The Indian Embassy in Washington said in a statement on Saturday that Delhi's lawyers were the Minneapolis firm of Robbins, Zelle, Larson and Kaplan.

A pre-trial hearing was scheduled for Tuesday before Judge John Keenan of the New York District Court to consider if US courts had jurisdiction over the suits already filed on behalf of the gas victims, and to appoint a lead counsel. But a court spokesman later said that Judge Keenan had decided to postpone the hearing until April 16.

● CONGRESS 1 TEAM: Except for Bihar and Rajasthan, the Congress (I) party, which won a majority in eight out of 10 states in the assembly elections, has fielded the same Chief Minister as candidates: R Madhav Singh Solanki in Gujarat, Mr Virbhadr Singh in Himachal Pradesh, Mr Arjun Singh in Madhya Pradesh, Mr Vasant Rao Patil in Maharashtra, Mr J. B. Patnaik in Orissa, Mr M. O. H. Farooq in Pondicherry and Mr N. D. Towari in Uttar Pradesh (Kuldip Nayyar writes).

## Thais battle to hold strategic Hill 424

Aranyaprathet, Thailand (AP) — Vietnamese forces trying to surround a big Cambodian resistance camp assaulted a strategic hill in Thai territory, injuring 20 Thai soldiers, the assistant army spokesman said yesterday.

Colonel Anusorn Krisananasarni said Thailand was rushing reinforcements to the area of Hill 424, the base of which was surrounded by Vietnamese troops striking under cover of mortar fire on Saturday. Thai forces at the peak of the hill retained control, he said. Officers said the Vietnamese and Thais engaged in a 50-hour artillery duel on Saturday as Hanoi's forces tried to storm 424, about half a mile to 1.2 miles from the border.

The Thai armed forces' supreme commander, general Arhit Kamlang-Ek, said on Friday that 10 Thai soldiers have been killed, 34 others wounded and six reported missing in the border clash.

while other officers put the Vietnamese toll at 100 killed. The guerrilla defenders of Tatum claimed yesterday they had seized the initiative and repulsed some of the 3,000 to 4,000 Vietnamese troops launching a multi-pronged attack on the last important Cambodian resistance camp near the Thai border.

Mr Truong Mcaly, a spokesman for Prince Norodom Sihanouk, leader of the anti-Vietnamese resistance, claimed Tatum's defenders have killed 800 Vietnamese troops and wounded more than 1,000 others since Hanoi's assault began last Tuesday.

PEKING: China reported serious fighting along its tense southern border with Vietnam. China's official news agency said that over the past 10 days Vietnamese troops fired thousands of shells into the frontier province of Yunnan "causing great loss of life and property" (Reuters reports).

## Four injured in Basque gun attack

Madrid — Suspected Basque terrorists fired on policemen guarding a television mobile broadcasting unit outside a crowded sports arena in Vitoria yesterday, wounding two television technicians and two policemen (Harry Debelius writes).

The mobile broadcasting unit was transmitting a basketball game for the state-run television network. Other policemen returned the fire and pursued the gunmen, but they got away.

Three days earlier, also in Vitoria, the military wing of the Basque group ETA killed the chief of the Basque home rule Government's police.

In Valladolid, in north-central Spain, two hundred men set fire on Saturday night to the local headquarters of the Socialist trade union, UGT.

Talking to reporters, Señor González warned the Ten of the risks of an isolationist reaction by Spaniards if they are refused entry by January next year. This would create very serious problems.

Señor González appealed to President Mitterrand for France to play its full part in granting Spain acceptable entry terms during what Madrid regards as a make or break negotiating session starting next week.

Señor González raised with the French the rivalry over who fishes in Community waters.

## Warning to EEC by González

Madrid — The "psychological link" in the Spanish people's minds between EEC entry and remaining in NATO was starkly underlined by Señor Felipe González, the Prime Minister, at the end of five hours of talks on Saturday in Paris (Richard Wigg writes).

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## Zia revives parts of constitution

From Hasan Akhtar Islamabad

General Zia ul-Haq, who has embarked after seven years of military rule on a gradual transfer of power to a civilian government, yesterday announced he was reviving the 1973 constitution apart from 28 key provisions relating to treason, subversion, fundamental rights and jurisdiction of the Supreme Courts.

General Zia, who made the announcement at a press conference in Rawalpindi, said that for the present martial law and military courts would continue. He declined to give any definite date for ending martial law or restoring the remaining constitutional provisions.

General Zia made a series of sweeping amendments to the suspended 1973 constitution on March 2. Mr Anwarul Haq, a former Chief Justice of Pakistan who headed the bench which originally gave legal sanction to General Zia's martial law, described these as having "knocked the 1973 constitution out of shape."

General Zia's announcement seems to meet popular demands, but it has come about after parliamentary elections which were boycotted by most

of the acknowledged Opposition on the ground that they were not being held under the 1973 constitution.

Thus the Opposition will remain out of the future Parliament as a result of the cleverly timed, selective restoration of the 1973 constitution. This is apparently what the martial law regime intended.

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# Argentina accuses Britain of closing door to dialogue on Falklands

From Douglas Tweedale, Buenos Aires

Señor Dante Caputo, Argentina's Foreign Minister, has blamed Britain for the current freeze in relations over the Falklands and asked whether Mrs Margaret Thatcher is "afraid of rational dialogue".

In an interview with *The Times* last week, Señor Caputo said: "The British refusal to dialogue, let alone to negotiate, closes the door to the basic tool of diplomacy: the meeting." He insisted that Argentina wants to begin non-binding dialogue on the future of the islands "immediately" and pointedly set out the difference between a negotiation and a dialogue.

"Dialogue does not commit either side, it simply permits each side to understand the other's arguments," he said. "I want to make it very clear that we are aware of the difficulties of going forward on this for all sides, and that we believe the only mechanism is dialogue."

Señor Caputo said Argentina had not dropped its insistence that any talks include the issue of sovereignty, although he said Argentina was willing to put off discussion of sovereignty until after "more imminent issues."

Asked whether this insistence on discussing sovereignty did not amount to a precondition for talks, as Britain claims, Señor Caputo said that there could be no permanent solution to bilateral relations "if the real



Señor Dante Caputo: "Is Thatcher afraid?"

problem between the two countries are not addressed.

"What is the fundamental reason for the separation of the two governments?" he asked. "The problem of the sovereignty of the islands."

Señor Caputo said: "I ask myself whether Mrs Thatcher is afraid of rational dialogue. I don't know the answer."

Señor Caputo said that the militarization of the islands was pulling the South Atlantic "like a magnet" into the East-West conflict and had made the Falklands a strategic target.

Referring to Mrs Thatcher's speech to the US Congress, Señor Caputo said the Prime Minister's statement that British

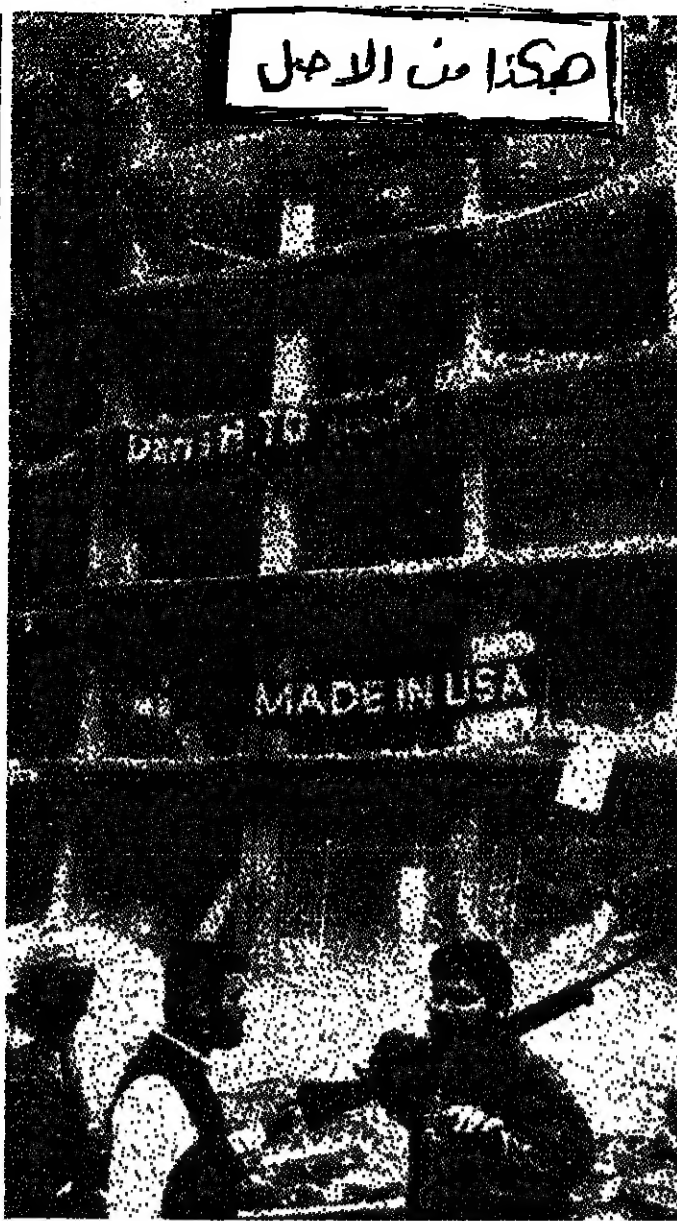
forces in the Falklands were among those Britain had deployed to defend Western liberty was completely unacceptable. "The inference that the freedom of the West can be defended by occupying Argentine territory is absolutely unacceptable... Argentina is decidedly in the forefront of the defence of Western liberty."

He added: "I sincerely hope that Mrs Thatcher's declining popularity will not tempt the Conservative Government to look to the Falklands as its salvation, the way (the Argentine military) did in 1982."

Señor Caputo said the inclusion of the sovereignty issue on any agenda for talks "would be nothing new. This is something that seems to be forgotten... the British Government has agreed to negotiate in the past over sovereignty."

He said the efforts of Señor Perez de Cuellar, the UN Secretary-General to mediate in the Falklands conflict "have run up against the same British intransigence we have."

He rejected suggestions that the civilian Government of President Raúl Alfonsín must "atone" for the sins of the military regime which seized the islands in 1982. "This is the Government that counts. It is a Government which has the support of the majority of the Argentine people."



Bomb aftermath: Under signs blaming the US, passersby argue with a gunman outside a Beirut building where a car bomb on Friday killed 75 people.

## Mortars hammer army base

# Israelis forced to retreat by guerrilla bombardment

From Robert Fisk  
Qasmieh village  
southern Lebanon

You could tell how heavily the Israelis had been attacked by the grim, dust-caked faces of the soldiers driving north from Tyre in their convoy of fast-moving Jeeps and trucks at the weekend.

Even in the meandering Palestinian refugee camp at Qasmieh, Mustapha Yussef said that he had never known such a fierce battle against the Israelis. He and his family had sat in their two-room, stone-floored home in the night, watching the tracers through the window and hoping none of the guerrillas' mortars would burst through their tin roof.

In was, indeed, one of the most extraordinary and brutal engagements in the latest phase of the war in southern Lebanon, a sustained attack on the Israeli Army's base beside the Qasmieh bridge at the mouth of

the Litani river, a guerrilla bombardment so heavy that at one point the Israelis, five of their soldiers cut down and wounded by shrapnel, actually drove some of their armoured vehicles south down the coast road and retreated up into the comparative safety of the Palestinian camp.

The Israelis were still trying vainly at the weekend to prevent journalists reporting from the Tyre area of southern Lebanon. And it was not difficult to see why they would not want the world to witness what was going on. For the first time, Lebanese guerrillas had laid their hands on a large quantity of mortars.

From a rooftop in the city I observed part of the Qasmieh battle on Friday night.

At one point I counted four mortar explosions every minute. At least 50 mortars fell round the Israelis in the space of one hour.

In the darkness a little later, a

helicopter without lights could be heard flying up the coastline to the Litani, presumably to evacuate one of the five soldiers, who was later reported by Israeli radio to have been critically wounded. The villagers of Qasmieh later complained to United Nations relief workers that the Israelis, after retreating into their refugee camp, had used the location as a fire base and attracted opposing fire onto the camp.

The grim little convoy that came up from Israel was led by an officer who looked remarkably like Lieutenant Moshe Levy, the Israeli Army Chief of Staff.

His expression was equally grave when he drove back from the Litani through Tyre half an hour later. The guerrillas' promised revenge for the killing of their leaders in Maarake last week - in a bomb explosion which they insist was Israel's doing and which Israel denies - appeared to have begun.

## US visit could disappoint Mubarak

From Christopher Thomas, Washington

President Mubarak of Egypt arrived in Washington at the weekend in the hope of persuading the United States to play a more active role in the Middle East diplomacy. The indications are, however, that he is unlikely to win an American commitment to mediate between Israel and the Arabs.

Mr Mubarak will meet Mr George Shultz, the Secretary of State, and Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, and will see President Reagan at the White House tomorrow.

He will be seeking a large increase in economic and military aid, but the signs are that the Administration is

reluctant to increase its support to Egypt.

A senior State Department official said: "We think that Egypt is a key actor and crucial to American interests in the Middle East. But this could be a less-than-successful visit for Mubarak if he has overly high expectations."

## The African tragedy

# UN sees need for extra £1.4 billion

From Zoriana Pysariwsky, New York

Twenty drought-stricken African countries which are either in the throes or on the verge of famine will need an extra \$1.5 billion (£1.4 billion) dollars of emergency relief aid, according to a report released by the recently-established United Nations Office for Emergency Operations in Africa.

The report has been compiled as reference material for a donors' conference on Africa to be held in Geneva today. It lists the individual needs of the 20 countries in six categories: cereal food aid; agricultural production; medical aid; clothing and shelter; water projects; and logistics which includes the provision of trucks, spare parts and storage.

## EXTRA EMERGENCY AID NEEDED BY EACH COUNTRY (Millions of US dollars)

	Food aid	Livestock	Seed	transport	fertilizer
Angola	9.7	4.3			
Burkina Faso	62.2				
Chad	110.3	2.7			
Mali	145.4	6.5			
Mauritania	32.8	1.9			
Mozambique	43.1	10.3			
Niger	139.5	6.2			
Sudan	114.0	21.5			
Ethiopia	260.5	95.0			
Botswana	2.8				
Burundi	20.0				
Cape Verde	9.4				
Kenya	17.4				
Lesotho	0.3				
Rwanda	19.0	5.7			
Senegal	5.9	10.7			
Somalia	14.7				
Tanzania	33.4	18.0			
Zambia	0.7	2.7			
Zimbabwe	0.7				
Total	1,043.12	185.5			

	Health care	Shelter and clothing
Angola	4.5	11.1
Burkina Faso	2.5	2.0
Chad	7.5	
Mali	6.0	2.0
Mauritania	5.5	
Mozambique	10.0	3.4
Niger	1.5	8.0
Sudan	14.3	29.7
Ethiopia	4.1	4.3
Botswana		
Burundi		
Cape Verde	0.8	1.0
Kenya	3.0	
Lesotho	1.8	
Rwanda		
Senegal		
Somalia	6.0	
Tanzania	1.5	
Zambia	0.9	
Zimbabwe		
Total	69.9	52.5

As well as dealing with short-term aid requirements, the report stresses the need for long-term projects which would turn Africa into a self-sufficient food producing continent.

This is underlined by a dire portrait of the future. The report calls the famine "an unprecedented crisis which shows little sign of abating in the near future, even if drought conditions were to improve markedly during the next rainy season." It estimates that over 30 million people are affected, out of the 150 million in drought-stricken countries.

The data reflect emergency requirements at the end of January. Emergency food aid requirements still to be met cover the period to March-April 1985 for the southern hemisphere, to September-October for the northern hemisphere, and to June-July for the highland countries of East Africa, which benefit from two rainy seasons.

The UN has taken pains to point out that the statistics are by no means absolute, but are subject to changes on the ground.

●**NAIROBI:** The food situation in 21 drought-hit African states continues to deteriorate, and donor nations must increase their allocations of food aid this year if widespread starvation is to be avoided (Charles Harrison writes).

This warning is contained in a new review of the African food situation, prepared by the UN Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

The FAO survey, released here at the weekend, says there was a "sizeable decline" in cereal production last year in the 21 countries, from Senegal and Mauritania in the west to Ethiopia and Somalia in the east, and from the Sudan and Chad in the north to Botswana in the south.

In some countries, food production has fallen short for two or three years, leading to widespread starvation and an acute shortage of seeds.

"As a result, all 21 countries have abnormally high cereal import requirements - which can be met only through additional allocation of food aid," the FAO warns.

The FAO says the situation is most acute in Chad, Ethiopia, Mali, Mozambique, Niger and Sudan.

## Bush urges world effort to tackle famine

From Alan McGregor, Geneva

In his message yesterday to the African Emergency Conference, which includes Russia Mr George Bush, the US Vice-President, said he "will try to encourage every country, transcending ideology, to be supportive in this enormous human tragedy."



Mr Bush in Geneva yesterday

He has just visited Niger, Sudan and Mali to see for himself the human suffering resulting from food shortages in 20 African countries. He arrived here yesterday.

Some 80 countries are represented at the two-day meeting, which according to Mr Bradford Norse, director of the recently created Office for Emergency Operations in Africa, is not a pledging conference. It is directed, principally, he said, to facilitating mobilization of resources and determining whether UN efforts are as effective "as they can and should be".

He put the latest assessment of needs over the next 12 months at \$1.5 billion. "If we were in a wartime situation, it could be a case of full mobilization," he added. "That's what we need."

Leading article, page 13

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## Soviet gloom over Geneva arms talks 'Star Wars' dominates Kremlin talks

From Richard Owen  
Moscow

M Roland Dumas, the French Foreign Minister, arrived in Moscow yesterday for talks dominated by "Star Wars" and the Geneva arms negotiations.

But there was heightened speculation over whether M Dumas would meet President Chernenko, aged 73, who according to unconfirmed reports suffered a further relapse at the weekend.

Western diplomats said they had been asked to check rumours that the Soviet leader had taken a dramatic turn for the worse but had found no evidence for this.

As the renewed Soviet-American dialogue got under way, the Soviet Press took a largely gloomy view of the immediate prospects for the Geneva talks, with *Pravda* declaring that, although Moscow would make every effort to reach a compromise, President Reagan had

shown unnatural logic by building up arms on the eve of Geneva to strengthen his hand.

Mr Chernenko failed to attend a gala meeting at the Bolshoi last Thursday marking Women's Day. He re-appeared on television at the end of February after a two-month absence but looked ill and unsteady.

M Dumas is expected to gain insights into Russia's attitude to

the Geneva talks, which open tomorrow, during talks today with Mr Andrei Gromyko, the Soviet Foreign Minister. He would normally meet President Chernenko as well.

Diplomats said the Russians would press M Dumas to voice French reservations about the American Star Wars project. Last week Mr Gromyko berated Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the West German Foreign

Minister, for supporting Star Wars during Herr Genscher's unscheduled visit to Moscow on his way to Finland.

Soviet officials said privately that, in spite of Mr Chernenko's recent illnesses, Kremlin policy was "solidly founded". The Soviet negotiators at Geneva had been given full instructions by the Politburo and Mr Vladimir Shcherbitsky, the Politburo member, was con-

tinuing his visit to the United States.

*Pravda* said yesterday that President Reagan's programme for a further arms build-up, including the MX missile, meant that the American delegation to Geneva was arriving with a new batch of first-strike missiles in its baggage. The talks would not be easy, but "vision and realism" would have to prevail if the arms race in space and on earth was to be ended, *Pravda* said.

*Pravda* said Mr Shcherbitsky's visit to America had produced "frank and blunt dialogue" on disarmament. *Izvestia* said the future of life on Earth hung on the Geneva talks.

Tass attacked Mrs Thatcher yesterday for joining Bonn in supporting Star Wars and applauded Mr David Steel, the Liberal leader, for saying in *The Observer* that Mrs Thatcher's stance would complicate the Geneva talks.

## Reagan makes a plea for the MX

From Christopher Thomas  
Washington

President Reagan intensified the pressure on Congress in his weekly radio address to the nation Saturday to support the controversial MX missile. He said that what Congress did could directly, and perhaps dramatically, affect the outcome of arms talks with the Soviet Union.

He added: "If the Congress acts responsibly, our negotiators will have a chance to succeed. But if we don't have the courage to modernize our land-based strategic missile systems, the Soviets will have little reason to negotiate meaningful reductions - and why should they?"

The Democrats, however, remain staunchly opposed to the missile programme. Senator Gary Hart, responding to

President Reagan, said the MX was too vulnerable a target to be a good bargaining chip. In a time of budget austerity, it was a waste of money. The Reagan Administration's multi-million dollar military build-up had already sent a signal to the Soviet Union of American resolve. "We can't show the Soviets we are strong by voting for a missile that is weak," he said.

## Doubts over shots at RAF chief

From Michael Binyon  
Bonn

After an intensive search and investigation over the weekend, West German police have concluded that an apparent assassination attempt against Air Marshal Sir Patrick Hine, Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Air Force in Germany, may have been a bad joke and was not linked to other recent terrorist outrages.

On Saturday afternoon at

least three shots were fired from a red BMW car as it overtook the car taking Sir Patrick, who is also commander of Nato's Second Allied Tactical Air Force, on an inspection tour to a mobile field headquarters in a Nato exercise. The incident happened near Moers, on the motorway about 20 miles north-east of Mönchengladbach, RAF headquarters in Germany.

Sir Patrick and his driver escaped unhurt and police were

unable to find any marks on the car or any bullets in the area near by. A police spokesman said that if the gun had been loaded it was extraordinary that the gunman, one of four passengers in the BMW, did not hit Sir Patrick's car at such close range.

In the past week there have been a number of terrorist attacks against Nato and especially American targets, and the extremists Red Army Faction has claimed responsibility.

## Toll of 130 dead after Iraq pounds eight Iran cities

Tehran (Reuters) - Iraq attacked eight Iranian cities with bombs and missiles yesterday and Iran said it raided two targets in Iraq as neither side showed any sign of let-up in attacks on civilian targets.

The national news agency IRNA said the death toll from Iraqi attacks yesterday was at least 130, bringing the total since last Monday to 525. Iraq said its planes hit a naval

target yesterday, near Iran's Kharg Island oil terminal. Señor Javier Pérez de Cuéllar, the United Nations Secretary-General, yesterday renewed his call on the two sides to stop shelling civilian zones.

Iran's leader, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, served notice yesterday that he had abandoned hope of UN intervention.



Child's play: A four-year-old pianist needed blocks to rest her feet on during a contest for musically inclined children in Peking at the weekend

## Eight Kurds killed in clash with troops

Ankara (Reuters) - Eight separatist guerrillas and two soldiers were killed in a clash near Diyarbakir eastern Turkey, the semi-official Anatolian news agency said yesterday.

Kurdish guerrillas seeking autonomy regularly battle with Turkish troops in the east of the country.

The agency said one of the dead guerrillas was a girl. It identified the soldiers as a non-commissioned officer and a private. A passer-by was also killed.

At least 25 soldiers have been killed and many guerrillas killed or detained since last August, according to official statement. Most of the attacks are ascribed to the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK), suspected by Turkey of having bases in Iraq.

## Bachelor fiesta voted a hit

Plan, Spain - The biggest fiesta this tiny Pyrenees village has seen came to an end with at least three of the 130 bachelors who advertised for brides bound for the altar, with 10 other possibilities.

The 116 girls who answered the newspaper advertisement came to a three-day, get-acquainted fiesta and Plan's bachelors have decided it will have to become an annual event.

## In good heart

Louisville, Kentucky (AP) - Murray Haydon, the world's third permanent artificial heart recipient, is no longer in isolation and visitors can see him without wearing surgical masks and gowns.

## Books saved

Canberra (Reuters) - A £1.2 million fire at the Australian National Library does not seem to have caused major damage to its collection of rare books and manuscripts.

## Capri cover

Capri (AP) - Capri, the sparkling island off the coast of Naples, is planning to cover its most popular square with a movable roof to keep out winter winds and rain.

## More Chinese

Peking (Reuters) - China's population rose by 11.09 million last year to reach 1,036,040,000 at the end of 1984, the State Statistical Bureau reported.

## Simone on top

Simone Signoret, the former French film actress, who has topped France's best-seller list with her first novel, *Adieu loulou*, which she completed before failing eyesight meant she could no longer decipher her own handwriting.

## Amnesty for 260

Montevideo (Reuters) - Uruguay's newly installed Parliament has approved an amnesty for 260 political prisoners jailed by the former military regime.

## Space scope

Moscow (AP) - Soviet and French scientists will soon launch a space observatory into orbit carrying a large gamma-ray telescope in an effort to solve the mysteries of cosmic radiation, *Izvestia* report.

## Picasso theft

Chicago (AP) - A Picasso painting *Nu Couché et Jouant de Fruct* has been stolen from the privately owned Richard Gray Art Gallery here.

## Academic brew

Pullman, Washington (AP) - After Washington State University announced Mr Samuel Smith would become its next president, a local supermarket began featuring English beers of the same name.

## Shark may have caught escaper

From Michael Hornby  
Johannesburg

An escape attempt, the only one so far this century, by a prisoner on Robben Island, South Africa's Alcatraz-style prison in Table Bay, has captured the imagination of people of all races here.

It is still not certain whether the prisoner, a mixed-blood Coloured called Jan Kamfer, was successful. There are fears that he may have drowned or been eaten by a shark. No one has ever escaped from the island, which is four and a quarter miles from the nearest shore, and lived to tell the tale. The only other recorded escape, in 1819, ended in drowning.

Mr Kamfer, aged 20 was jailed for 18 months last January for housebreaking and theft and disappeared from a work team on the island.

A paddle-ski is a kind of large surfboard which the paddler, sitting with his feet loosely held by two canvas straps, propels like a canoe.

No signs of the fugitive or his frail craft have yet been found, despite a search by the Navy and Air Force. "He must be a brave man. Good luck to him", said Mr Tim Ryan, captain of the Western Province paddle-ski team. "If he slipped off and fell into the water, it wouldn't take long to die of hypothermia".

Table Bay is on the Atlantic side of the Atlantic-Indian Ocean divide, and the water is extremely cold. On the day of his escape, Mr Kamfer would also have been paddling against a stiff south-easterly wind.

Robben Island was used as a place of banishment for convicts and mutinous sailors even before permanent white settlement at the Cape in 1652.

For the last 20 years, however, it has been the main prison for long-term political prisoners, though it also holds ordinary criminals. For many years, the island's most celebrated resident was Mr Nelson Mandela, leader of the banned African National Congress, but he is now in a jail on the mainland.

Twelve young whites, most of them students at the University of Cape Town were arrested by the security police before dawn on Friday and charged with attending an illegal gathering.

They were later released on bail of 150 rands (£70) each and are due to appear in court again on March 29.

The illegal gathering mentioned in the charge took place on November 14 last year, when a number of students stood along the road outside the university with banners protesting against the arrest of Miss Kate Phillips, the president of the National Union of South African Students.

## Walesa forbidden to leave Gdansk without approval

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

The Polish authorities have ordered Mr Lech Walesa, the Solidarity leader, to seek official permission every time he wants to leave his hometown of Gdansk, in an attempt to stifle his opposition to the Government of General Jaruzelski.

Mr Walesa was also given a fresh warning by the Gdansk state prosecutor that he was facing a hefty jail term - five years for leading an illegal union and three years for inciting public unrest - unless he abandoned his opposition activities.

But Mr Walesa made clear after a round of questioning -

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times a day), Thessaloniki (3 times a week), Toulouse (5 times a week), Vienna (2-3 times a day), Warsaw (3 times a week), Zagreb (daily), and Zurich.

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# Karamanlis resigns over Papandreou plan to cut presidential powers

From Mario Modiano, Athens



President Karamanlis: Nomination withdrawn

Constitutional proposals to strip the Greek President of effective power and reduce him to a figurehead role, will be tabled in Parliament today by the ruling Panhellenic Socialist Movement (Pasek), the party of Mr Andreas Papandreou, the Prime Minister.

The proposals come 48 hours after Mr Papandreou, in a spectacular but confusing move, blocked President Karamanlis's re-election for another five-year term due to be considered on March 15. He nominated as Pasek's candidate Mr Christos Sartzetakis, aged 56, a highly regarded Supreme Court judge.

President Karamanlis, who was 78 on Friday and had been nominated for re-election by the conservative opposition party New Democracy, withdrew from the contest on Saturday and resigned last night. In a statement he disclosed that Mr Papandreou had given him an "unsolicited" pledge of support.

The Prime Minister's change of heart was announced to a meeting of Pasek's 140-member Central Committee, which had expected him to coax them into endorsing the candidature of Mr Karamanlis against their will because of the need to reassure uneasy centre voters as well as Greece's Western allies.

His announcement, which surprised some ministers, brought thunderous applause and cries of joy. Mr Papan-

dreou, explaining the volte-face said he gave the highest priority to the need to increase the powers of Parliament and the executive by reducing the prerogatives of the President granted by the 1975 constitution.

The constitution, however, was Mr Karamanlis's "brain-child", and what a paradox it would be to ask Mr Karamanlis to carry on as President with emasculated powers, Mr Papandreou explained.

Whether the Socialist leader was giving in to pressures from his party's Marxist hard core, which sees President Karamanlis as an obstacle to Socialism, or whether he engineered the change to outsmart the old

President by catching him off-guard, remains to be seen.

Perhaps Mr Papandreou's most telling remark was before Pasek's Jubilee parliamentary group meeting on Saturday night when he said: "This marks the deliverance of democracy and belies all those who claimed that we had been assimilated by the old system."

Pasek's move elicited favourable, but as yet non-committal, reactions from the pro-Soviet Greek Communist Party (KKE) whose 12 votes in Parliament are vital to elect Mr Sartzetakis.

He would need 200 votes out of 300 in the first round of March 15, which the present parliamentary arithmetic would preclude. The same majority is needed in the second round five days later, but in the third and final round, again days later, 180 votes are enough.

If Mr Sartzetakis cannot get elected, Parliament will be dissolved and elections held within 40 days. The new chamber then elects a President, if need be, by a relative majority.

Many Conservatives in the Opposition now believes that Mr Papandreou, by depriving himself of the Karamanlis umbrella, has done a great service to New Democracy, which hopes to attract those disgruntled centre voters who in 1981 gave a crushing victory to Pasek.



Mr Papandreou arriving at the Pasek meeting to announce his change of heart

## Terror drives whole village to join Tamil boat exodus

From Michael Hamlyn, Rameshwaram

A huddle of tired people stand on the beach near the port jetty at this holy town. They look untidy and drawn, from having spent all night crowded together in a 20ft fibreglass fishing smack, and they don't say much. They smile gently to themselves, because they feel secure for the first time for weeks on end.

These are the new boat people, fleeing the terror inflicted on them by the undisciplined soldiery of Sri Lanka. They are Tamils seeking the sanctuary of Tamil Nadu in India.

Since February 5, 14,402 people have made the midnight crossing and more come every morning. The terror must be especially bad for them to leave behind their houses, their growing crops and their furniture to the mercy of the Sinhalese forces.

Rameshwaram is the closest point on mainland India to Sri Lanka. It juts out towards the

Mannar peninsula and it is so holy that the plough may not turn the earth here nor its fruit be pressed for oil.

According to Hindu legend, Lord Rama, having defeated the wicked King of Lanka, returned to the Indian mainland here and set up a temple to commemorate his victory. His wife Sita, newly restored to him, built the temple's lingam with her own hands. Now the boatman - fleeing from the Lankan authorities - steer towards the light on the temple's historic tower.

The new arrivals are greeted by a posse of customs officers and taken off their belongings, loaded on bullock carts, to chattrams, ancient lodging houses where for centuries pilgrims have been lodged free of charge.

While his wife and three children, grey with fatigue, shelter in the shadow of a fishing boat the schoolmaster of the little Sri Lankan village of

Pesalai explains that his was the last family to leave. He describes a raid on the village two weeks ago which made them all decide to move to India.

The soldiers surrounded the village and came in at first light, looting the empty houses and stealing money and valuables from inhabited ones. They ordered three young men to run, and as they ran they shot them.

A few miles away on the Indian mainland, in a big transit camp at Manapam, the cinema owner from the same village also describes the raid, corroborating the details and explaining that the inhabitants of Pesalai felt caught between a rock and hard place.

If they did not give food and shelter to the militants, they were in trouble. If they did, they were in trouble from the Army. That was why the village as a whole decided to leave.

## Nkomo denounces election as fraud

Bulawayo, Zimbabwe (AP) - To the cheers and whistles of some 50,000 supporters, Mr Joshua Nkomo, the Opposition leader, mounted a vitriolic attack yesterday on Mr Robert Mugabe's Zimbabwe Government.

The rally at the White City stadium in Bulawayo, believed to be the biggest since independence, was the official launch of Mr Nkomo's campaign for a general election scheduled for mid-June. But he claimed that

the elections were "already a fraud - a fraud before they started."

Mr Nkomo declared: "Independence without freedom is meaningless, and there is no freedom in this country." He said Mr Mugabe's Government was "led by fascists, not even comparable to Herr Hitler."

Bulawayo is the capital of Matabeleland province, a focal point of political violence in the run-up to the elections, the first since Rhodesia became black-

ruled Zimbabwe on April 18, 1980. Matabeleland is also home of the minority Ndebele tribe, which forms Mr Nkomo's power base. Mr Mugabe is of the dominant Shona tribe.

In his speech, Mr Nkomo alleged that loyalists have abducted and murdered 378 people in Matabeleland as part of "an ongoing exercise to bring fear and intimidate people" to vote for Mr Mugabe's Zimbabwe African National Union (Patriotic Front).

### European Notebook

## Hunt for scapegoat focuses on Britain



With just three weeks to the next European Summit, everyone is preparing to blame someone else in the event of what could be an extremely costly failure.

To be a success this summit will have to approve the final terms to bring in Spain and Portugal, rubber stamp a plan to ease out the finances, dedicate itself to cleaning up the environment and set guidelines for future development of the Community into some kind of other of European Union. There is serious trouble on all fronts, however, and the need for whipping boys and scapegoats has never been greater.

Britain is the traditional favourite. West Germany blames it for having blocked its plans to clean car exhausts. Italy, as President of the Council of Ministers, holds it primarily responsible (with Denmark) for having stopped a deal on fishing rights which would have cleared the way for enlargement. Just about everybody resents having agreed to give Britain a £600 million budget concession this year.

All this adds up to proof, in the minds of those who like to think that way, that Britain is an unconvinced European. There should be a difficulty about branding Britain, in advance, as the spoilsport that difficulty is that its reputation for being un-European is not entirely borne out by the facts.

Take European union - or "unity", as Britain prefers to call it. There is no more staunch supporter of the principle of opening up the internal market, of allowing free movement of insurance policies and cheap air tickets and of harmonising new technology standards. The

trouble is that Britain alone is properly geared up to profit from such moves, so the others will not easily agree them.

Consider the committee report on institutional reform being drawn up for the summit. On two points there was unanimous recommendation by committee members as long ago as the Dublin summit in December. Mrs Thatcher suggested then that they be adopted immediately; and won no backing at all.

Then there are the milk quotas. Britain's dairy farmers have never stopped complaining about them, but they have observed them rigidly, which is more than can be said for almost any other country.

Even on the European Monetary System, which it has yet to join fully, Britain is not entirely Eurosinfu. The system's currency, the ECU (European Currency Unit), is after sterling and the dollar the most common in use in Britain. West Germany refuses to allow the ECU inside its borders.

In cold statistics, perhaps the only guide to Britain's relative integration is the number of times it has run foul of European law. According to a Commission report, it is easily the most law-abiding of the four large countries, and only slightly more naughty than tiny Luxembourg. Between 1978 and 1983 Britain was hauled before the court 10 times. This compares with 13 times for West Germany, 33 for France and 69 for Italy.

It would be wrong to present Britain as a paragon of EEC virtue. The trouble is that it has so far failed to learn the fine EEC art of persuading others it is fighting for Europe, when all it is really doing is defending its own corner.

Ian Murray

## Deng insists goal still communism

From Mary Lee Peking

China's economic reforms which have led to "unhealthy tendencies" among officials and factory managers, has prompted a policy statement from Mr Deng Xiaoping, the senior leader.

He hopes to stem fears of a political backlash against the new policies or the country turning corrupt and capitalist and divided by wealth gaps.

In his capacity as chairman of the Chinese Communist Party's central advisory commission, Mr Deng said on Friday that the ultimate goal of China's socialist modernization was to attain communism.

Mr Deng used a national conference on science and technology to make the statement.

For the conservatives who are afraid that economic liberalization may result in the loss of the Party's control over the country, Mr Deng had these words of comfort: "We allow the development of private enterprises (that is, private enterprises) and joint ventures and even of enterprises owned solely by foreign corporations. But all along the socialist public ownership must be maintained as the mainstay of our economy."

## Poor prefer children to payouts

From Stephen Taylor Singapore

An incentive scheme by which the Singapore Government is attempting to get poorly educated couples in low-income groups to stop having children has attracted only 57 applicants since being introduced last June.

Of these, 47 couples have been approved for payouts of \$4,300 in return for being sterilized after one or two children. Another 116 couples who showed initial interest apparently thought better of it.

Meanwhile, new applications have slowed to a trickle, with only three couples coming forward so far this year.

Another of Singapore's ambitious, some might say Orwellian, social engineering programmes - the attempt to get reluctant university graduates to mate - has produced even fewer results.

Since its formation a year ago, the Government's Social Development Unit has striven with a meticulousness and secrecy which are characteristically Singaporean to arrest what Mr Lee Kuan Yew's Government sees as an alarming decline in the marriage of women graduates.

Mr Lee believes that bright parents will produce the bright children needed to safeguard the island's future.



Extracts from the statement of Sir Jeremy Morse, Chairman, Lloyds Bank Plc, in the 1984 Report and Accounts, to be published on 4 April 1985.

In 1984 Group profits before provisions and taxes were £737m, 16% up on the previous year. Pre-tax profits, after provisions for bad and doubtful debts of £269m, were 12% up at £468m. Post-tax profits were 17% down at £237m.

The dividend for the year will be 26.5p on the capital enlarged by last year's 1 for 5 issue, an effective increase of 12%. This year we are proposing a 1 for 2 bonus issue to capitalise reserves and to bring the share price more within reach of the small investor.

These are encouraging results, given that we are still in the trough of the banking cycle, a trough which has been extended over nearly three years as the great inflation of the 1970s slowly subsides.

The welcome recovery we have seen to an average growth rate of about 3% in the major economies has done more for prosperous sectors and companies around the world than for those in difficulties. Hence our need to continue making provisions at an exceptionally high level for the third year running.

We will continue to devote our skills to managing the remaining problems, by ourselves or with other banks in the case of corporate debt, and in a larger co-operation with governments, central banks and the International Monetary Fund in the case of country debt.

During 1984 the dollar remained strong, and over the year rose by 25% against the pound. This affected our figures in a number of ways. Despite the growth in our business, our total assets fell when expressed

# Lloyds Bank 1984 Results

	1984	1983
Profit before taxation	£468m	£419m
Profit after taxation	£237m	£284m
Earnings per share	98p	119p
Dividends per share	26.5p	23.7p
Total assets	£44,009m	£38,432m

in dollar terms; the income from our international operations was increased in sterling terms; and our international exposure was increased in relation to our capital.

At such a time it has been most unfortunate that the tax burden on British banks has been increased and their capital strength reduced, notably by the impact on leasing of last year's UK Budget changes on capital allowances. This accounts for the disproportionate deterioration in our post-tax results. It also required us, as we announced last May, to provide from reserves £465m for deferred tax relating to leasing business undertaken in previous years.

Fortunately our capital ratios were previously strong by both British and world standards. Even so, the ratio of our shareholders' funds to total assets was brought down from 6% before the Budget to 4.7% at the end of the year. It will take time to restore this ratio to a higher level, and with this in mind our prime objective must be to improve our return on equity.

The second half of the 1980s is likely to see big changes in banking and other financial services. We are positioning ourselves to maintain a strong performance through those changes and beyond.

Lloyds Bank has 2,500 branches and offices in the United Kingdom and a further 500 in 47 overseas countries. It employs 48,000 people in the United Kingdom and 12,000 more abroad.



A thoroughbred amongst banks





*FIESTA: A great little investment. Britain's best-selling small car. Smart, yet efficient, it's a first-class buy for the smaller investor.*



*ESCORT: Britain's best-selling car with high resale values - gives you a consistently good return.*

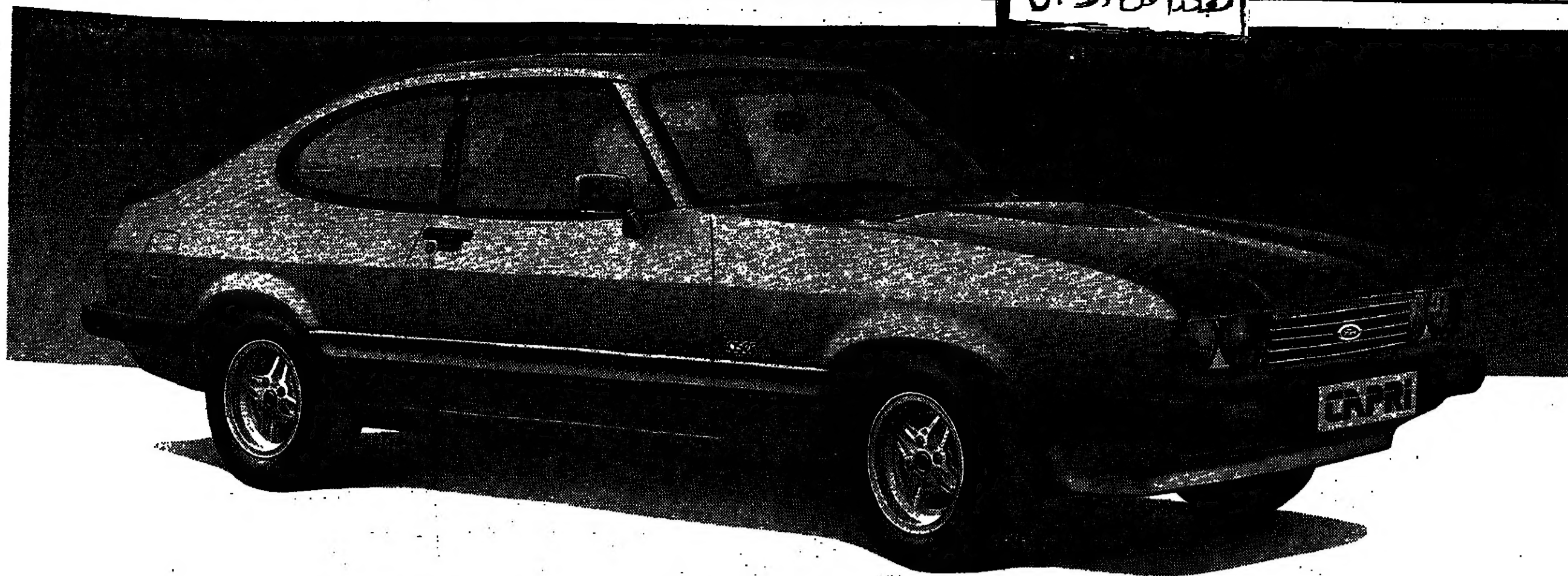


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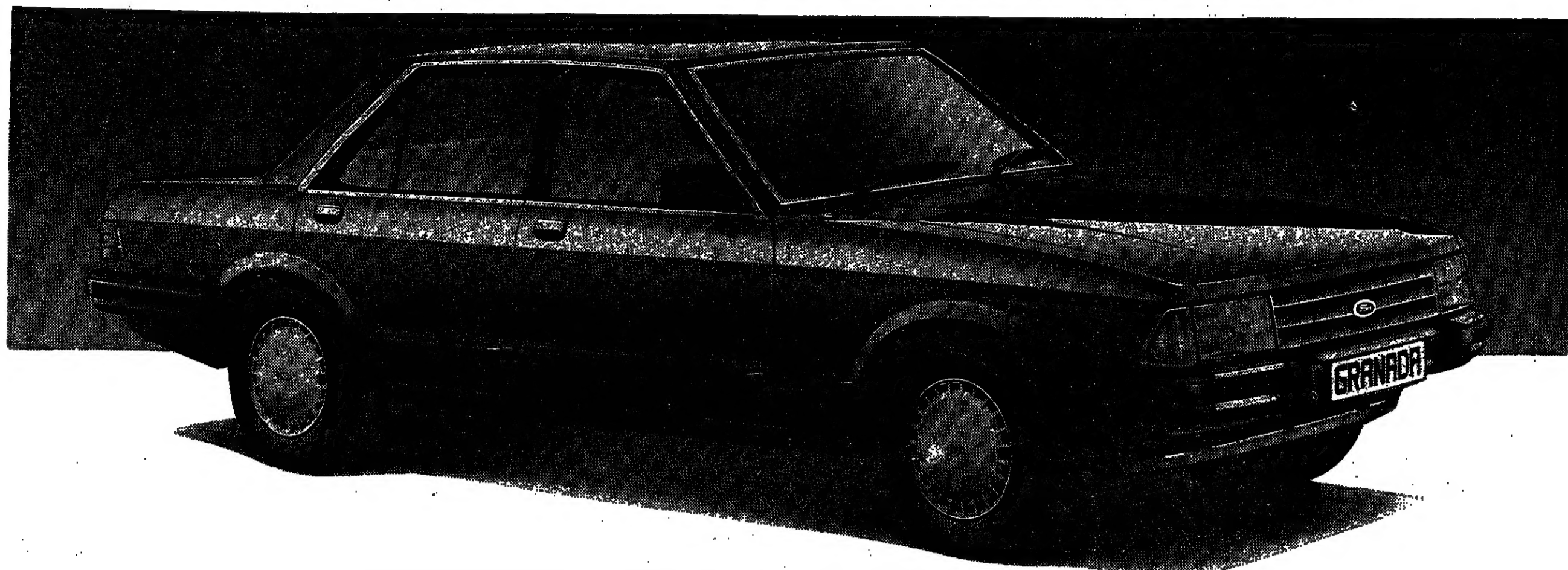


*SIERRA: With style that others are beginning to follow, the best family investment for now - and the future.*





*CAPRI: Britain's best-selling sports coupé. A high-flying investment that gives you a fast return on your money.*



*GRANADA: Britain's No. 1 executive car. A gilt-edged investment – just ask the financial director!*

# You can still get a great deal on a really good investment.

Judging by the sales success of Ford cars throughout February, it appears that many people still recognise a really good investment when they see one.

But then it's fair to say that a Ford has never been a better proposition or given you a better deal.

Just look at the facts for yourself.

The cars are brilliantly engineered. Every aspect is painstakingly researched before they put a tyre on the road. They have handsome, distinctive lines. And each model is designed to fulfil a specific need. Whatever your demands, Ford has the car to meet them.

However, the car is only part of the investment story. Every model gets the total back-up that only major manufacturers like Ford can provide these days.

Just weigh up how much this lot is worth.

Every car has a full twelve month Assurance. Extra Cover (an optional warranty plan) is available for the 2nd and 3rd years to help protect your investment.

Additional security is provided by Ford's new Six Year Corrosion Assurance.

And now, all Ford main dealers offer a free Lifetime Guarantee on many repairs.

Finally, you, as a Ford owner, have the unrivalled support of Ford's massive dealer network.

And, on top of all this, many Ford dealers still have limited stocks of some models at their pre-increase prices, but, needless to say, they are selling fast.

So check up with your local Ford dealer right away. He could well make that great deal even better than you'd imagine.

**Ford cares about quality.**





## SPECTRUM

Inspired by President Kennedy's assassination, *Winter Kills* survived money problems, a murder, a drugs charge and opened to good reviews but was mysteriously withdrawn. A film about conspiracy in high places, it has recently reopened in London. Sebastian Cody reports

# The film they could not kill

*Winter Kills*, which opened at the ICA Cinema in London on Friday, has had a dramatic history. Telling the fictionalized story of a conspiracy to assassinate the President of the United States, it took William Richert, the director, five years and six million dollars to make. The film — starring Jeff Bridges, John Huston, Anthony Perkins, Sterling Hayden and Elizabeth Taylor — was released briefly in 1979 and then mysteriously vanished. One of the producers was murdered, the other is serving a 40-year jail sentence for drug smuggling. Richert has not made a film since.

*Winter Kills* was born in the mind of writer Richard Condon the day after President Kennedy was shot. Speaking from his house in Dallas, the 70-year-old writer of *The Manchurian Candidate* and former director of publicity for Walt Disney, told me: "Doctors, after examining the body, announced that the President had been killed by two bullets. This was denied within the hour but cited in the *New York Times* in their first edition. The story did not appear in the second edition and the autopsy report was sealed for 75 years. That started me off."

The result is Condon's satirical novel, written in a house designed by the man who designed the White House 15 years after the assassination of President "Kegan", interlocking connections around the nation's power brokers eventually point the finger right back at the "Kegan" family.

Published in 1974, the book aroused the attention of two young aspiring producers, Leonard Goldberg and Robert Sterling, who paid Condon \$75,000 for the rights. "Goldberg seemed to be Puss in Boots to Sterling's Marquis of Carabas," says Condon. "I thought they were kids playing at making movies."

Through an agent, Goldberg and Sterling contacted screenwriter William Richert, aged 43 and living in Malibu, said last week: "Goldberg was this very nervous, cross-eyed guy who was distributing *Black Emanuelle* and wanted to do better. Sterling must have been a smuggler already although I never knew. He was obsessed with movies. He had worked as a hat check man at the Museum of Modern Art and wanted some of the glory of the great painters. Tye planned to make a shocking film and asked me to write the screenplay."

Seeing his chance to direct a feature film, Richert accepted. He had once interviewed the daughters of US presidents Truman, Roosevelt, Johnson and Nixon — "I asked Julie Nixon who her father talked to and she said 'Daddy talks to me and Tricia mostly' — amazing" — and had come away with a sense of "how confused,

trapped and human these heads of state were". But at that time he had no taste for conspiracy. "Oswald did it. Anything else was really too bizarre."

Then Goldberg and Sterling invited Richert to Key Biscayne in Florida to write the script. What he saw there changed his mind. "There were men in Panama hats whispering about drug deals, beautiful girls on mysteriously acquired yachts and Nixon playing golf with Bebe Rebozo and half the heads of the Mafia families. It excited my imagination."

After writing the script, Richert went to Los Angeles to cast the film. "I winged my way into seeing all these people. Tony Perkins asked me why he should do the film and then gave me a directing test in his dressing-room. Elizabeth Taylor left me speechless but said the idea would be a giggle to do." Jeff Bridges and John Huston agreed to act in the film if it was directed by Richert.

At the end of 1976 Richert started filming on the MGM lot, along with Sterling Hayden, Eli Wallach, Dorothy Malone and the Japanese actor Toshiro Mifune. For 11 weeks all went according to plan. Then one day in March, 1977, Richert and Tony Perkins were 150 feet in the air, shooting on a huge set, when all the lights went out.

"The doors flew open and a bunch of guys who looked like characters from *On the Waterfront* walked in. They were the heads of every union in Hollywood. 'You're shut down,' they said, 'nobody works.' MGM closed the set and Richert discovered there had been no money during the last seven weeks of shooting. Goldberg and Sterling had only raised \$2.5 million for a \$6.5 million film and were operating on illusory credit generated by their repeated promises. To this day most of the cast and crew have not been paid, apart from Elizabeth Taylor. She had required payment in advance. On finishing work, the grateful producers gave her a new fur coat. They had not paid for it. The further repossessed it."

Two years and many legal deals later, Richert was able to shoot for two weeks and finish his film, by then acquired by Avco-Embassy. Their head of distribution was quoted as saying: "If I knew whether the picture would do well, I'd be president of Universal." Soon afterwards he was.

The producers did not do so well. Robert Sterling was arrested and sentenced in 1981 to 40 years in jail with no parole for having distributed drugs worth \$22.5 million.

Shortly before *Winter Kills* was finally due to open, Leonard Goldberg was found on his 33rd birthday handcuffed to a bedpost in his New York flat. He had been shot through the head.



President's men: Top, John Huston as the father; below 'protector' Anthony Perkins and right Jeff Bridges

In June, 1979, the film opened to rave reviews across the country. Its comic-book look at the American nightmare of corruption and conspiracy in all the best places was a resounding commercial success. For three weeks, then — unaccountably — the film faded into oblivion.

Armed with famous actors, strong box-office receipts and good reviews, the film should automatically have moved on to the big-city circuits and the small-town drive-ins, playing a possible 14,000 engagements across the United States and Canada. It did not. In Britain the film was booked to open on the Rank circuit from December, 1979. It was cancelled at the last minute. The film never appeared in the other principal film markets of the world.

Condon, who has a lifetime's experience of the film business, hints at a possible reason: "It was 1979: a presidential election was coming up. Avco — the parent company of Avco-Embassy — had revenues of over \$800 million that year, including important contracts with the United States Departments of Labor, State and Defense. Avco might have wanted to please powerful political friends."

Richert remembers trying to film a scene at the Pan Am building in New York: "That building for me is a

symbol of corporate power. We asked permission under the company name, Winter Gold Ltd. The building management asked if the film had anything to do with the novel *Winter Kills*. We stalled; the man yelled, 'You slimy, filthy son of a bitch! Don't you know the Kennedys have offices here? You're never going to get permission to shoot within 20 blocks of this building.' (Richert shot the scene with a hand-held camera.)

Richert has now bought the film back and is releasing it himself, to good business in America. But many questions have still to be answered.

Condon puzzles over why the two producers were able to stage off more than 400 creditors — including Warner Brothers, MGM, the State of California and the city of New York — for so long, and where their money really came from. "Furious members of the cast confronted Goldberg and Sterling about the frequent visits to the set by escorted men in polo shirts and white shoes said to be 'big in oil'. The budget — what there was of it — must have been put together piecemeal with Southern Florida crime money."

Could Goldberg's violent death be connected with the continuing bad deal he gave certain investors? Could Sterling — the "dumb kid with dreams of glory" as Condon calls him — have

been set up by his drug-industry associates? And why was his sentence so unusually heavy?

Condon remembers going to a dinner party with Arthur Schlesinger in New York; some of the Kennedys were going to come by later. "I heard their voices downstairs, but they never came up to meet me." Condon is convinced the Kennedys were involved in some way in suppressing the picture: "Who else would have such an interest?"

Condon's new film, *Prizzi's Honor*, starring Jack Nicholson and directed, appropriately, by John Huston, opens in Britain this autumn. Richert, obsessed by *Winter Kills* for seven years, was trying to finish the screenplay for a romantic comedy by midnight the day he spoke to me.

As for the Kennedys, when I tried to raise the issue of the film with contacts in Washington I was told that this was a "very touchy subject" and reminded of Joseph Kennedy's residual contacts in Hollywood. Secretaries gave nervous giggles, press attaches "would not comment without greater awareness" and Edward Kennedy's speech-writer called the story "demeaning and demeaned garbage". The mystery remains: who tried to kill *Winter Kills*?

## Divers on the river beat

As thinning ice took its toll last month — seven deaths from icy drowning in a single weekend — police underwater search units made news. The men, and one woman, of these units do not expect to save lives. "Our job is search, not rescue," explained one diver succinctly.

A search a year ago led to the discovery of Mrs Margaret Hogg's remains. She was weighted down, 32 metres under the surface of West water. The Cumbria police were looking for a French student, Veronique Marie, who is still missing. Instead they found the remains of pilot Peter Hogg's wife and he was gaoled for manslaughter at the Old Bailey last week.

Water hides a multitude of sins, including safes, stolen property and, naturally, bodies. This winter has been particularly bad for accidental deaths in frozen water too — several forces have answered emergency calls. A poacher's body was discovered in watery wastes south of Scunthorpe. He had shot a Canada Goose and while trying to reach his prey on a wooden platform with a makeshift car had slipped through the ice.

Police divers work in nil visibility in the foulest condition investigating sordid cases. They volunteer to descend to these murky depths to be called as one diver put it — "barmy in winter and skivers in summer". They take home the same pay as other police officers of their rank, and few rise higher than police constable. The supervisor at Humberside, PC Brian Wilson, earns around £12,000 a year: it was his team who found the poacher. Joining an underwater search unit is a sidestep into an unusual sphere, not career progression.

The total number of divers in Britain is around 300, including

one woman, WPC Angela Clamp, an ex-Wren, joined the West Midlands police in 1979 and last year asked to become a diver — she is a strong swimmer and plays water polo for the force. She is 5 feet 3 inches tall (the minimum for a female officer) and won through an eight-week training course in Strathclyde, which is one of two diving schools. The other is in Northumbria.

The 300, divided between 30 forces, are mostly part-time divers. They cover for some 17 forces without units because this has made economic sense. Chief Inspector Denis Fowler is head of the Northumbria unit, which last year performed about 200 operational dives. He is also head of the diving school which trained 56 students in 1984, six at a time. Next year the school will run a new refresher course — for supervisors, ensuring that they fully understand changes in regulations and maintain the highest standards. The diving schools really began in 1976, though Berkshire claims to have opened the first unit in 1955.

Professionalism among police divers has spread regionally and nationally, spurred on by leaders in the fields who, including Denis Fowler, form the Assistant Chief Police Officers' diving sub-committee. Currently they are discussing subjects from high technological communications through water (a hard line tug is still the general practice) to tow searches (whereby several divers are pulled by a boat).

Brian Wilson is among the best known of the divers, and formed Humberside's unit five years ago. One of his first memories is of retrieving a rape victim's handbag and "trying to keep warm in a telephone box during an arctic blizzard".

Property often tells macabre half-stories. Six thousand pounds' worth of Crown Derby, mostly broken, was probably dumped by a burglar. "We were

looking for an offensive weapon at the time", Brian Wilson explained, in his small, warm room crammed with diving suits and other gear around the walls at Hull's police station.

The day I visited the cases were routine. In Beverley Beck, eight miles from Hull and partly covered with ice, the search unit recovered a safe. We arrived at the spot and the trailer, which carries a wealth of equipment, including an inflatable boat and ladders, was opened up. A diver changed into a watertight clothing over a woolly bear suit and descended into the icy beck. Half an hour elapsed before the safe was dragged into view.

Next stop was Grimsby, over the Humber Bridge, where we joined another officer in the police headquarters canteen. He explained that two lads had raided properties, stolen goods and left a small jewel box in the shallow water of the dock. They had planned to dive for it when the heat was off. Plans went astray and our diver, using a ladder to help descend from Corporation Bridge, found the box within seconds.

Brian is asked to talk about the work to local groups. The night before he had visited the Young Farmers and shown them slides brought home from America, where he went as a Churchill Fellow to study underwater rescue techniques after the airline crash in Washington's frozen Potomac River.

Underwater search officers have to keep smiling. A day out with these Humberside men was a jolly occasion far removed from station duties. Why do they dive? "It's like finding a casket of treasure, even though we can't keep it", smiled a keen diver, adding that his skills were shared by only a dozen officers out of 1,976 in the Humberside force. They are police officers first, adventurers second.

Ann Hills

## FINDINGS

A series reporting on research: PUBLIC OPINION

## Money matters

Money, not sex, is the number one topic in young American minds, according to a national survey of 2,500 adults conducted by Lieberman Research Inc. New York for Money magazine. More than 60 per cent of Americans under the age of 35 worry about money often and say "there's never quite enough of it".

It shows you my piggy bank if you show me yours



The average American would need \$1.1 million dollars to feel "rich". 31 per cent do not save any money while the other 69 per cent save an average of 5.8 per cent of their incomes. Some 59 per cent expect to give financial support to their grown children. However, the vast majority of the respondents said they were better off financially now than in 1980.

## How proud

Pride comes before a fall, they say, but when the people of Canada and the United States were asked how proud they were to be Canadian/North American by Civil Services Inc in America in March 1981 and in 1982 by Canada's Contemporary Research Centre, US residents proved the prouder race with 80 per cent saying they were "extremely proud" to be American. Two-thirds, 65 per cent, of Canadians expressed the same sentiment. National pride was stronger among English Canadians, 72 per cent, while only 45 per cent of French Canadians said they were *très* proud.

## Switch in time

The post-election study conducted by CBS News and the New York Times, following President Reagan's victory in November, showed that only nine per cent of Americans changed their mind in their vote for the President in the last few days of the campaign. This is interestingly, exactly the same proportion of the British electorate who switched during the 1983 general election. In the United Kingdom it amounted to about four million people, one third of whom switched from one party to another and two thirds of whom changed their minds about whether to vote.

The Americans gave various reasons for switching: they included 11 per cent who said it was because of issues, four per cent because they were negative about Reagan, another four per cent because "someone convinced me", three per cent because of the Democratic Party vice-presidential candidate Mrs Geraldine Ferraro and only two per cent who said they didn't want the landslide that was being forecast by the polls and pundits.

The British data in the MORI/Sunday Times panel at the last election, revealed that although the electorate were inclined to give the Conservatives a substantial majority in the House of Commons, it was not through great confidence in the Tories' ability to achieve many of their claimed objectives. Sixty per cent believed the re-elected Conservative government would not reduce unemployment, 57 per cent believed it would not cut income tax, 55 per cent believed that it would not help improve people's living standards; 50 per cent said it would not reduce the crime rate; and 57 per cent believed a Conservative Government would cut welfare service.

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## MONDAY PAGE

صباحنا من الامل

For B&B  
read bed  
and bored

Evicted home-owners unable  
to repay their mortgages are  
being forced to live in slum  
conditions. Alan Franks looks  
at the new homeless

There are more families living in the bed-and-breakfast belt than ever before. Traditionally this has been the first refuge of parents and children thrown out by relatives no longer able to accommodate them. Today there is growing evidence that the housing crisis in London and other major cities has become so acute that even middle-class couples, unable to meet their mortgage repayments because of recession and the resulting job loss, are being thrown towards the costly mercies of the B-and-B sector.

Since 1982 the number of homeless families housed in these supposedly temporary arrangements has increased by 50 per cent, and the indications are that this figure will continue to rise.

It is a grim landscape, in Bayswater, west London, where the crumbling Victorian stucco now fronts tourist hotels and multi-occupation units, one room with a shared bathroom can command a rent of more than £120 a week. In most instances, this cost is borne by local authorities; they would, housing pressure groups all over the country insist, get a better return for the money by investing it in the building of new housing stock.

One young woman to whom we spoke, a mother of two children aged three and two, was forced to leave her semi-detached house, when her husband lost his job and the building society foreclosed on the mortgage. Since then, the couple have separated and she now lives with her children in a cramped hotel bedroom in Bayswater.

There are only two coppers in the basement of the building to meet the needs of some 80 residents. In her room the gas ring is sited beneath the fire sprinkler, making it unusable. All cooking has to be done on the opposite side of the room, on the bed of the elder child. The cost of this accommodation is £160 a week.

Since the national figure of mortgage foreclosures has risen by 300 per cent in the past three years, it is hardly surprising that the B-and-B sector, where costs have been pushed up by tourist demand, is having to take much of the strain.

A survey undertaken recently by Shelter (National Campaign

for the Homeless) and SHAC (The London Housing Aid Centre) concluded that such accommodation is costing London authorities £13 million each year. It also estimated that by the end of last year 3,000 families accepted by the council as being homeless under the Housing (Homeless Persons) Act of 1977, were in bed-and-breakfasts - again a threefold rise in as many years.

On Wednesday a report by SHAC will castigate the Government for its failure to meet the demands of the homeless. Yet their figures are only the tip of the iceberg as there are many more families, not officially designated as "homeless" under the Act, who must none the less be found roofs, financed by the Department of Health and Social Security board and lodging allowance. When the ceilings on these allowances are reduced next month, it will then fall to the local authorities to make good the deficit. One London borough, Camden, reckons that it might have to find an additional £250,000 for top-up payments during the next financial year.

Opponents of government housing policy argue that all these statistics represent the hidden cost of a drive towards increased home ownership. As rent council accommodation falls, the pressure on private landlords to house the homeless mounts and the state is compelled to meet bills inflated by the pressures of the tourist market.

The Association of Metropolitan Authorities is gravely concerned. In a paper delivered to the Hotel Homelessness Conference on February 16, it pointed out that when the relevant Act was introduced, eight years ago, investment in public housing was running at a level five times higher than at present; that there were 132,000 homes being started and 162,000 completed in the public sector compared with 30,000 and 40,000 respectively now.

During the current year, the association predicts, another 3,000 families will be added to "this cold statistic which represents the country's most urgent housing need". It also castigates the "voodoo economics" which, it claims, prevent local authorities from improving bad housing, cre-



ating building jobs in the process, housing the homeless on a secure and permanent basis, gaining rent and rate income; instead the policies encourage the giving of large subsidies often to disreputable landlords.

According to the latest Department of the Environment statistics, mortgage default is a reason for homelessness more common outside the capital, and at the end of last year accounted for 7 per cent of the total. (This compares with figures for marital dispute: 25 per cent; rent arrears: 18 per cent; and parents/relatives no longer willing to accommodate: 43 per cent.)

The figures seem bloodless beside the human realities. The main problem is that living quarters which were intended for short stays are now having to serve as semi-permanent lodgings. In the case of the growing number of dispossessed middle-class families, it is a not uncommon cause of acute domestic friction, often splitting husband from wife - with the usual consequence of turning her into the head of a one-parent family, in surroundings which are little better than slums.

The bed-and-breakfast tax is often a sham - the hotel offers no breakfast; there may be no playrooms for the children, no social rooms for the adults, no laundry facilities, no cleaners. One well-spoken young div-

orce, formerly a joint home-owner, spends most of her days at the local Under-Fives club, where there is at least company, heating, and a cup of tea. "I make them some kind of breakfast on the ring in the room, then we go down to the centre till about four, then back to the room. Then I make them some burgers on the ring and put them to bed at about 6pm. After that, I just sit down and watch the television. I never go out in the evenings, partly because I haven't the money, and partly because the owners don't like it if you get strange people in to baby-sit."

One of the helpers running the group admits that only a tiny percentage of the bed-and-breakfast families in the catchment area come to the centre. "Mostly there's this sort of inertia that sets in. They feel hopeless and helpless. Even if

they know we're here, they don't bother to get out and come along. They just seem to get mesmerized by their own sense of defeat, and sit in the room with their children, all through the day."

There is another, new dimension to the crisis. Without this most basic accommodation in their own boroughs, many local authorities are placing families in hotels at the other end of the capital, with the result that social contact with the old neighbourhood is all but lost. Tower Hamlets, for example, is now having to find living quarters for its homeless 15 miles away, at Heathrow. The irony is that because even accommodation such as this is now at a premium, councils are competing with one another for rooms and helping to force the prices up to levels which they can ill afford.

## HOUSEHOLDS IN LONDON BOROUGH IN B &amp; B

	Dec 81	Dec 84		Dec 81	Dec 84
Barnet	7	n/a	Lambeth	80	90
Bexley	123	17	Lewisham	3	35
Brent	82	677	Merton	2	1
Camden	65	750	Newham	2	1
City	182	192	Richmond	n/a	n/a
Croydon	11	11	Southwark	23	30
Enfield	18	223	Sutton	57	367
Hackney	52	25	Tower Hamlets	82	102
Harrow	114	78	Wandsworth	179	179
Hillingdon	21	26	Westminster	179	179
Hammersmith	21	15			
Islington	8	12			
Kensington	47	n/a			
Kingston					

Sources: Local authorities, Barnet and Dagmarham, Bromley, Croydon, Greenwich, Haverhill, Redbridge and Waltham Forest had no records in B & B.

Playing on: one woman's  
legacy to India

There was no one quite like Jennifer Kendal for selfless devotion. For years she put her acting aside to bring up her family, while her younger sister Felicity's career blossomed in England, she retained a dream of bringing a high standard of drama to India, her adopted country. Finally, with her husband, the film star Shashi Kapoor, she opened the Prithvi Theatre in Bombay.

I was at the Prithvi when the Marathi Theatre Academy were due to perform *Ghashiram Kotwal*, half an hour before the show was due to start, I was told that they had not yet arrived.

"From their hotel?" I asked, thinking it was slack of them.

"No, from Poona," said Kunal Kapoor, Jennifer's eldest son with an unruffled smile that may have masked a variety of emotions. Poona is over 100 miles from Bombay and the roads are none too good. A few minutes afterwards, the director and leading actor were chatting on the foyer's steps, as if they had all the time in the world, before disappearing backstage to produce one of the best theatrical entertainments I have seen.

The Prithvi Theatre, named after Jennifer's father-in-law, the actor Prithviraj Kapoor, is considered the finest in Bombay for both actors and audience. It has an open stage surrounded by semicircular banks of seats rather like a mini-Chichester. The prices for the seats and the companies' hire are kept deliberately low to encourage developing talent.

For five years Jennifer tried to raise standards of Indian theatre to a more international level. She was only deflected from her work there when she returned to acting in films - an award-winning performance as an Anglo-Indian schoolteacher in *36 Chowringhee Lane* proved that her talent, though dormant for years, was undiminished.

### 'Their enthusiasm for theatre is the Kendals' endearing quality'

In November 1983 she put on a festival to celebrate the Prithvi Theatre's first five years. Sadly, it was her last work at the theatre, for, in September last year, she died of cancer at the age of 50.

This year's Prithvi Festival, organized by Kunal, aged 25, was a tribute to her. It was timed for February as the 28th was her birthday; Kunal said: "We thought we would give it to her as a birthday present." It was a present of which she would have approved, for it realized her wish to demonstrate the international language of theatre.

Appropriately, her parents Geoffrey and Laura Kendal opened the festival with excerpts from Shakespeare. The Kendals toured India for more than 20 years with a theatre company in which Jennifer and Felicity learnt their craft. They inspired the Merchant/Ivory film *Shakespeare Wallah*, and brought the English classics to two generations of Indians.



Family business: Jennifer and Felicity Kendal in 1982

Now well into their seventies they are still touring.

The performance at the Prithvi was preceded by snake-charmers and acrobats in the foyer, and ended with the audience giving them a standing ovation.

The endearing quality of the Kendals is their enthusiasm for theatre. They are also, like other actors of their generation, perfectionists. Although they have performed their two-handers, George Kilty's *Dear Liar* and Arbuzov's *Old World* on many occasions, they spent the week beforehand rehearsing strenuously.

The Festival then moved to the heart of India in a play *Pashu Gayatri*, performed in Mewari (a little known dialect) by the Bhels of Rajasthan. The company of tribal players were performing for the first time outside their area, and without the customary 40 days of religious rituals which are part of the event.

They were followed by a play from Manipur, on the borders of Burma, which combined tribal art forms with an acknowledgement to the physical theatre of Poland - the company's director, Kanhaiyalal, had studied with Grotowski. The cross-fertilization continued - *Death of a Salesman* in English, performed by Indian actors; an Indian play, *It's All Yours*, translated from the original Marathi into Bombay English; Charles Fuller's *Soldier's Play*, translated into Gujarati; and even a Hindi version of John Osborne's *Look Back in Anger*, renamed *Main Zinda Hoon Main Socha Hoon*.

*Look Back in Anger* demonstrated some of the difficulties of translating a play specifically set in a certain time and place in England into Hindi. The reading of "poth" Sunday papers in bed-sitters, the insistent sound of church bells, the constant harping on the theme of class, have no precise Indian equivalent.

*Ghashiram Kotwal* had the distinction of being panned in

Poona when it was first seen because of its satirical treatment of the Brahmins.

Based on a true story it is set in the dying days of the Maratha Empire in the 18th century. Nana Phadnis, the Marathi Chancery, appoints Ghashiram, an outsider, as the Kotwal - Chief of Police.

The play combines folk dance, mime and music, which transcend language barriers.

After the show we were invited to dinner with the company. Mats were spread on a paved area under the palm trees by the theatre and we sat crosslegged to eat a Marathi meal of vegetable curry, *rotis* and *dhal* served from large buckets into *thalis*, and eaten

### 'Prithvi Theatre is considered to be the finest in Bombay'

with the fingers. Meanwhile, the director, Jabbar Patel, discussed the qualities of Peter Brook's three *Carmen* at the Bouffes du Nord. It summed up the universality of theatre. Jennifer would have loved it.

Even more, she would have loved the evening on which her birthday was celebrated. Two of India's best musicians - Zakir Hussain, the mop-headed genius of the tabla, and Shivkumar Sharma, the leading exponent of the *santoor* - played for three hours to an enraptured audience. The house full signs were ignored and people sat in the aisles, on stage, in the wings behind the musicians. At the end, Zakir said, "We wish Jennifer a happy birthday and this is our tribute to her." A haunting folksong from Jammu and Kashmir held the audience spellbound. It was a special acknowledgement from India to the English women who had found a place in their hearts.

Clare Colvin

Brought to  
book on  
the 8.41

My hobby is the addictive, semi-conscious vice of biblioscopy, or having to see what the other person is reading - usually on a train. I only realized quite recently that I've been doing it for years, peering over shoulders, bending down to attend simultaneously to a shoe lace and a dust-jacket, furtively changing seats.

Am I alone in this affliction? I doubt it, and suspect the commuter trains are packed with voyeurists of a similar bent. It is only on the commuter train, in fact, that the vice can be given full rein. This is chiefly because it is only in the enforced idleness of a rail journey that you will see many people in a place reading. And when commuters read from choice, tell us something about our fellow man.

Rubbish, of course, said up, say, is much of what our fellow man and woman reads. This perhaps tells us something about popular taste anyway. From my long researches on the 8.41am, I can confirm that women are doing most of the reading - of books that is.

With male passengers the most popular author at the moment (apart from the company auditor) seems to be Tom Sharpe. As his books have gradually stopped being funny, so his popularity as a comic novelist has burgeoned - though I have yet to see a commuter laugh out loud.

So Sharpe scores low in the biblioscope's I-Spy - as do the likes of Adrian Mole (a markedly female taste), and the last year's *Raj* books, and the year before, *Brideshead Revisited*. A surprisingly low score also attaches to religious tracts: you would be amazed how many ordinary looking blokes

FIRST  
PERSON

Nigel Andrew

are quietly acquainting themselves with the latest on the Second Coming.

A good deal of language learning goes on in trains - which accounts for many, but by no means all, of those readers who appear to be talking to themselves. Foreign language books score quite high, especially those in unfamiliar scripts: a Japanese book, for example, is quite a rarity, as the Japanese, like the Italians, seem only to read magazines.

There was one middle-aged man with business suit and briefcase reading something with evident pleasure and absorption - but what? I could not get a peep, magicoeuvre as I may, though some instinct told me I was on to a winner. Eventually, as he prepared to get off the train at West Croydon, the moment of illumination came. It was *The Consolation of Philosophy* (Penguin Classics edition). A clear 50 points, I even in translation. And then there was Xenophon alighting at Thornton Heath - or Probst running for the train at Balham in a vibrant lumberjack shirt.

The hobby is now set to enter a new phase, with the coming of the "personal stereo". Increasing numbers of rail travellers now come equipped with little headsets, and some of these sensation-seekers go so far as to read a book while listening to music. So the next step, the advanced form of the game is clearly going to be to identify both book and music. There will be extra points awarded for bizarre combinations - Mickey Spillane and Vivaldi, from Maiden and Jane Austen, Schopenhauer and George Formby. Biblioscopy is here facing its ultimate challenge.

## Knowing when not to notice

In bed with *fil*, I have come across the man of my dreams. His name is Charles Ritchie and I met up with him in the pages of Victoria Glendinning's biography of Elizabeth Bowen, the perfect book to lift spirits cast down by Lemip and wads of tissues piled up like soggy profitables.

What makes Charles Ritchie so special is not so much his love for Miss Bowen, since her appeal was widespread, but the fact that he noticed and remembered the clothes she wore. Here are two of his diary entries: "Elizabeth came to tea in her smart black coat with a pink flower in her buttonhole... She had on her gold chain and bangles." "Elizabeth was wearing a necklace and bracelet of gold and red of the kind of glass that Christmas tree ornaments are made of... She had on a white silk jacket over a black dress." In case you are wondering, the writer of these diaries wasn't a hairdresser or interior designer but a Canadian diplomat.

Outside the pages of books I have never met a man whose eye registered and recorded what a particular woman was wearing at any one time.

Even men who move in ritzy haute couture circles report back that the Princess of Wales had on "some long white thing" (a bedsheet?) while Joan Collins had chosen something "black and sort of shiny" (a dashin liner?). My very own husband never notices what I wear until it is worn to a rag, at which point he asks accusingly, "Is that new?" The only dress of mine which he finds disturbing is one with raised seams on the outside. When I wear it, he follows me around explaining that it's meant to look like that, so that his friends won't think he's daft enough to have married a woman who puts her frocks on inside out.

I know another man who doesn't know much about

PENNY  
PERRICK

fashion, but knows what he doesn't like. If you happen to be wearing it, he will take you to lunch only in the dimmest corners of the dreariest restaurants. Since this is not nearly as much fun as being taken to the Contagious, I have, over the years, discarded several items that made him grind his teeth including a very useful grey wool test dress which would be perfect for having the *fil* in right now.

The mystery is that this man's wife is the worst dressed woman in the world, devoted to those stiff frockies which usually are seen only on dolls that cover the lavatory-roll holders in old-fashioned seaside boarding-houses.

Either love is blind or when he takes her out he tips the head-waiter to lead him to a table screened by a pillar and several petted palms.

If Charles Ritchie were to step out of the pages of a book and into real life, I am not sure that my hero-worship of him would survive. For men who trespass into a feminine world often make me feel dislocated, uncomfortable in their presence.

I like to kid myself that there is some sort of womanly mystique attached to some of my more stuffily-minded passions:

choosing the bathroom tiles, arranging tulips in a jug, designing my own tapestries. I do not like it when a man turns out to be far abler than I at turning a house into a home or knows his way around polystyrene flower-arranging blocks.

I react cheerfully when a man follows me into the kitchen intent on discussing the merits of flat rather than curly parsley. I feel that I have been rumbled, put to the test. "This isn't the sort of conversation suitable for mixed company", I snap and angrily crop some of my finger into the wrong kind of parsley.

So I hope Charles Ritchie kept his observations on Elizabeth's clothes to himself and his diary. Had he said: "So clever of you, Elizabeth darling, to have converted your old Christmas tree ornaments into a necklace and bracelet", the spell between them would surely have been broken.

There is now a vicious new New York version of the kizogram. For \$150, you can hire an actress called Cynthia Busbee, bewigged and made-up in the Marilyn Monroe mould, to wiggle into a party and cause deep embarrassment.

Miss Busbee walks up to the host, takes a ring out of her pocket and tells him, in earshot of practically everybody, that he left it in her apartment a little while ago. So far, her routine has not caused any heart attacks or divorce proceedings. In fact, she could prove a blessing to wayward business men. For if a lady who isn't Miss Busbee grows a little familiar with a gentleman in the presence of his wife, he will be able to say that he has never seen her before and it's his guess that his colleagues rented her for the evening for \$150 and a bit of a laugh.

"Elizabeth Bowen by Victoria Glendinning. Published by Penguin at £3.95.

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# THE TIMES DIARY

## Factor of 1,000

How far would the Cabinet have gone to recapture the Falklands? No further, it transpires, than the loss of 1,000 men. This I learn from a single sentence, attributed to "private information", in an updated history of the Conservative Party by Lord Blake, Provost of Queens College, Oxford, due out in May. Lord Blake was no more forthcoming on the telephone. Yes, he knows the figure is correct. Yes, it surprises him: "I'd have thought they would have been prepared to lose a good deal more." No, he did not know what would have happened had the figure been reached. (260 men were killed). Labour MP Tam Dalyell plans to draw attention to the figure - with its implications for Britain's commitment to the Falklands - during Thursday's Commons debate on the islands' future. He believes it represents not the point at which the Cabinet would have found the losses unacceptable so much as that at which public support for despatching the task force would have begun to evaporate. Had Argentine shells been properly fused, it might have been reached very quickly, he points out: as it might yet be should Argentina, humiliated but better armed, be rash enough to attack again.

## By proxy

It seems that Neil Kinnock is not the only political leader to have endorsed Lord Tony's memoirs without having read them (PHS last Friday). I now learn that at the publishers' request, David Steel sent a note saying: "These memoirs bear the firm imprimatur of all that my fellow MPs came to love about George Thomas: his warmth, his wit, his strongly-held Methodist beliefs, his down to earth manner, and above all his overriding sense of fairness." Er, no, he hadn't read them either, admits an assistant. "But the person who wrote it had."

## Girlpower

Magicians, taxidermists, private detectives and kissergram girls, yes; nude models, no. An internal Manpower Services Commission memo lists "unacceptable" businesses that the unemployed should not be encouraged to start up with £40-a-week MSC grants. These include such entrepreneurial growth areas as gambling, faith-healing, pornography and "sex". Model agencies must therefore promise there will be no saucy poses and - following police investigations into one grant-holder - escort agencies must solemnly swear to be no more than that.

BARRY FANTONI



## Of course

On February 22 the banner headline of Ken Livingstone's *Labour Herald* pronounced: "Call on TUC to mobilize unions: Take Action for the NUM." Two weeks provides plenty of hindsight. The post-mortem on the miners' strike in the latest *Herald* pontificates: "All too often the Left was reduced to calling on the TUC to take action, knowing very well that they would not do so."

Norman Tebbit has certainly recovered. He told a dinner given by Industry in Parliament Trust last week that he still awaits a cheque from Marks and Spencer for advertising their pyjamas on television - "even though they may not have been perfectly modelled".

## Tomb with a view

Thanks to the People's Republic of China, Britain may for a little while yet continue to visit Highgate cemetery and Marx's tomb free of charge. The impoverished Friends of Highgate Cemetery, who have been struggling to avoid the imposition of an entrance fee, have just received an unsolicited cheque for £2,000 from the Chinese embassy. This definitely makes Peking more Marxist-than-thou. Moscow has not only given nothing: Mikhail Gorbachev even cried off his scheduled pilgrimage to the tomb when he visited Britain in December.

## Not so tart

Ariel Sharon, the former Israeli defence minister, claims that he has a higher view of English green-grocers than I reported last month: far from attacking a Kensington fruit stall holder for the absence of Israeli produce, he was delighted to see so much on display. He also, incidentally, has firmly denied my story that he had come to Britain to discuss his libel suit against Time magazine.

PHS

# Care for the family, Mr Lawson

by Michael O'Higgins

There is a contradiction between the Government's professed commitment to the family and the continuing decline in the relative living standards of those with children. For example, the proportion of children living in the bottom 20 per cent of households has doubled in recent years and on some measures these families are now almost as likely as pensioners to be in poverty.

Parliament has legislated to improve the position of the new cohorts of pensioners, but little relief seems in prospect for families - and certainly not from the present Chancellor. This may seem a curious conclusion, particularly since simultaneous poverty and taxation on families is one of the factors motivating Mr Lawson's desire to reform the tax system. But as things stand, families can be helped only by a real increase in the value of child benefit, and this is not on the political agenda. Because it involves public expenditure the Government consider it had by definition. It is also regarded as inefficient, going to rich and poor families alike (a form of inefficiency which appears to be less seriously regarded if it relates to tax relief on mortgages, for instance).

The Government's priorities, as reiterated in the recently-published expenditure plans, are clear if

somewhat unrealistic. Real public expenditure must be cut by more than £2 billion by 1987/8 to enable the Chancellor to make tax cuts (before the mid-1987 election?) without upsetting his PSBR targets.

The cut to which the Chancellor appears most attached - raising the tax threshold for single people and married couples - would do little to alleviate poverty, as the Institute for Fiscal Studies has demonstrated, because most of those to benefit would be young single people and second earners in non-poor households. Although families would benefit from such relief they would do so only to the same extent as couples without children, who on average are significantly better-off.

The current system of taxation, and of tax relief, therefore does not permit resources to be specifically directed at families. The means of doing so through cash benefits does not meet the Government's concept of a tax cut.

The source of this problem was identified, though not acted upon, by Sir Geoffrey Howe when he was Chancellor: the abolition of child tax reliefs during the late 1970s. He speculated that had those reliefs still existed, they might have been the beneficiaries of much of the

Government's tax-cutting ardour. In their absence the Government cannot direct tax cuts to families. So why not restore family tax benefits?

The old child tax reliefs were unfair on two counts - they did not benefit those too poor to pay tax, and they provided greater benefits to those on higher incomes paying the higher rates of tax. Neither is an inevitable feature of a tax benefit, if it is paid as a credit. A tax credit for children is equivalent to granting relief at the standard rate of tax, so all taxpayers receive an equal benefit.

What about those too poor to pay tax? There are very few working families in this position: between 80 and 90 per cent of children are in tax-paying households which would benefit immediately from such a credit.

Clearly it would be unfair to the remaining children, and their parents, to restrict the benefit to taxpayers, but this group could also be helped. If the Chancellor were to contemplate a small increase in spending, the credit could be made payable as a cash credit to non-taxpayers, those totally out of work - the long-term unemployed, many single parents - this would simply enhance existing benefits. If

the recipient returned to work the same relief would continue to be payable, albeit as a tax credit.

For those who become unemployed during the year, or the few non-tax-paying poor working families, a more complex interim scheme would be needed. Alternatively they could be entitled to a tax credit payment at the end of the tax year.

All this may seem imperfect. There is no economic difference between child benefit and a child tax credit, as any random 365 economists will tell you, so would it not be simpler to pay higher child benefits? After all, tax credits would not necessarily go to the parent with the most direct caring responsibility; child benefit does. Since, however, the Government thinks there is a difference between a tax relief and a benefit payment, and since the Chancellor is not going to increase the real value of child benefits, these are not really the relevant issues.

The basic question is whether child tax credits are preferable to tax relief for single people and couples without children; the answer is that such credits would allow the Chancellor to meet his political objectives while doing more to help families than any other way of distributing the tax cuts. So, why not cut taxes as social policy?

The author is a Reader in Social Policy at the University of Bath.

Iain Elliot on a little-known side of the Soviet peace offensive

## Reading, writing and rifle drill

The tragic death of a young Soviet teacher, killed protecting his pupils from the blast of a hand grenade in the confines of a crowded classroom, dramatically publicizes a subject which deserves much greater attention. Why does the Soviet leadership devote scarce educational resources to basic military training, a compulsory part of the curriculum which goes far beyond what the OTC offers pupils in a few British schools?

The explosion in Middle School No 2 shattered the peace of cold, bright morning in the small Ukrainian town of Ivanich. The teacher, reserve officer Yuri Lelyukov, was demonstrating to 26 children how to prime what he thought was a harmless practice grenade. When he pulled the safety ring and released the detonator lever a sudden puff of smoke showed that he held a live grenade which would explode in exactly four seconds.

Should he fling it through the window down in the school yard he could see a class of six-year-olds going for lunch, into the corridor? The school was so crowded that there were desks with children there too. He strode to the far corner of the classroom, where he crouched down with his back to the class, clutching the grenade firmly in his stomach.

Senior Lieutenant Lelyukov was a graduate of a KGB border guards college in Moscow, and his greatest ambition was to return to active service. He left a wife and young child. The newspaper *Komsomolskaya Pravda* reported that by decision of a military tribunal he was responsible for letting a live grenade turn up among a batch of practice models were severely punished for their "criminal negligence".

Boys are told that they should be proud to serve in the ranks of the armed forces which liberated Europe in the war against Nazi Germany, and which are quite different from the armies of capitalist countries that serve the interests of the ruling exploiters. "With phrases about faithfully serving God and fatherland, the imperialists mask the plundering, aggressive aims of their policies and the essentially anti-popular nature of their armies".

The manual proceeds to cover in considerable detail most aspects of military science, from tactics to weapons drill, showing the parts and assembly of hand grenades, Kalashnikov machineguns and other means of eliminating the enemy down to the simple bayonet and rifle butt. If the young soldier notices the flash of a nuclear explosion while



Surviving a nuclear attack: useful tips for the classroom cannon fodder: right, another military manual in general use in Soviet schools

advancing against the enemy, he should lie down with feet to the explosion, avoiding himself of any natural cover.

In addition, you should turn up your greatcoat collar and protect your hands under yourself. To avoid losing your sight, cover your face well. Immediately after the shock wave passes you must at once get up and continue to carry out your military mission.

Many Russians, remembering the terrible casualties suffered in the last war and aware of the growing number of young men killed or maimed in Afghanistan, strongly oppose the regime's use of education for military training. The teachers' newspaper *Uchitskaya Gazeta* even published a poem telling children to throw away their guns and play no more at war. But this was severely criticized in the Ministry of Defence newspaper, *Krasnaya Zvezda*, which repeatedly extols the virtues of military-patriotic education in preparing schoolboys for their two or three years of compulsory national service.

The school textbook *Basic Military Training*, edited by a general, is published in millions of copies and used throughout the USSR. The introduction warns children to

beware of the aggressive intentions of Nato and inculcates "hatred for the enemies of socialism". It states:

The imperialists continue preparations for unleashing a new world war, first and foremost against the Soviet Union and other socialist countries... This war, in its essence and political content, will be the decisive armed conflict of the two opposing world systems. It will demand from its participants colossal effort from all their forces and vast casualties on an unprecedented scale. Soviet soldiers will be required to show exceptionally high political and military qualities, unshakable determination, self-sacrifice and the will for victory.

Of course there are many Soviet schoolchildren who privately express some scepticism about the effectiveness of this and other suggestions for civil defence in the event of nuclear war. They joke that all you can do is wrap yourself in a shroud and crawl to the nearest cemetery. But the chapters in the textbook on constructing full-out shelters or on protective clothing, gas masks and detection equipment for chemical and bacteriological warfare are written with deadly serious intent.

Marks for basic military training are included in the annual report along with more normal subjects. This deliberate indoctrination of Soviet children is another useful method of instilling habits of obedience to party control.



The chief political directorate of the Soviet armed forces pays great attention to military-patriotic education: the soldiers now carrying out orders and committing atrocities in Afghanistan began playing serious war games with their first steps in education.

As Professor Lev Yudovich, pointed out in the London newsletter *Soviet Analyst*, this trend has intensified recently, with the establishment of special boarding schools to prepare children exclusively for military colleges.

Museums of military glory have been opened in many schools, and in Leningrad, for example, the first lesson of the teaching year is devoted to military courage, with veterans coming in to share their experiences. The pupils in each school are divided into battalions, platoons and sections; commanders are chosen and each battalion has its flag. Military games and competitions continue even in the summer holiday camps, but are not usually shown to western visitors.

## A scene that could soon fail to shock

Johannesburg. The Market Theatre in Johannesburg, a small avant-garde playhouse which courageously explores the frontiers of South African government tolerance, is currently enjoying a box-office success with Strindberg's turn-of-the-century melodrama *Miss Julie*, in which an upper-class lady causes a scandal by seducing the family manservant.

There would be nothing especially remarkable about this revival of a period piece were it not that it has been given South African settings, and the manservant, accordingly, is played by a black actor, John Kani. The white actress who plays Miss Julie, Sandra Prinsloo, has been the target of poison pen letters, obscene phone calls and vicious attacks in the right-wing press.

The racial prejudice which the play affords has for many years been enshrined in South African law, which among other things prohibits sexual relations, in or out of marriage, between white and black. Yet even as the play began its opening run in Cape Town last month, moves to repeal this offensive legislation were being initiated in the new multi-racial parliament of whites, Indians and Coloureds.

Miscegenation, as the existence of the mixed-race Coloureds attests, was widespread for at least 150 years after white settlers arrived at the Cape in 1652. Although children born out of wedlock were generally not regarded as white, there were many early marriages between white settlers and local Hottentots, or imported Indian, African and Malay slaves whose offspring were assimilated into white society.

The myth of white racial purity has been definitively exploded in a new book by an Afrikaner historian,

Dr Hans Heese, who has spent some years studying the genealogy of the pre-1800 Dutch, German and French settlers who form the main ingredients of the Afrikaner people. In an appendix he lists more than 1,000 well-known Afrikaner names from Botha to Treurnicht, borne by early settlers who either married or had sexual liaisons with the colour line.

No less unsettling for right-wingers, who pretend that miscegenation was mainly the work of passing sailors, was a recent programme about the sex laws on the Afrikaner television, whose output is closely vetted by the government. In its speaker by speaker conceded that Afrikaners were not a pure white race, and that some of the most revered figures in Afrikaner history, such as Paul Kruger, president of the Transvaal republic at the time of the Boer War - were of mixed descent.

Such frankness on a sensitive and hitherto taboo subject - no thunderbolts came down to strike the makers of the programme - is encouraging evidence that public opinion is being prepared for abolition of the sex laws, possibly before the end of the year.

The Prohibition of Mixed Marriages Act, which forbids marriage between "a European and a non-European", was passed in 1949, the first important piece of legislation to be introduced by the openly racist National Party after its defeat of General Jan Smuts's more moderate United Party in 1948.



Sandra Prinsloo and John Kani in the South African "Miss Julie"

Coloureds or Indians. Sexual relations between members of the different non-white groups have never been forbidden.

The number of marriages between whites and other races immediately before 1949 was not high - fewer than 100 a year. Nationalists, however, appear to have been obsessed by the fear that the racial identity of whites was threatened by "infiltration" by Coloureds, who range from very black to almost white, and who generally share the

Afrikaners' language and religion as well as their blood.

Over the years the authorities have pursued infringements of the Immorality Act with declining zeal. In the 1960s more than 600 people a year were prosecuted. Last year the figure was 160, of whom 114 were convicted. Sentences are usually light, despite a maximum possible penalty of seven years in jail, but the social disgrace is great, and not a few whites have committed suicide rather than face imprisonment.

Aside from the great symbolic impact of repealing the sex laws, and thus admitting that racial boundaries are no longer inviolate, there would be intriguing practical implications: a white man married an African woman, their children, under South African law, would be Coloured, and the family would fall into three different race categories.

Quite apart from the fact that each member of the family would enjoy different political rights, they would, as things stand, be unable to live in the same area, go to the same hospitals, travel on the same trains and (in most places) buses, go to the same cinemas or (with few exceptions) theatres, sit together in most beaches, eat together in most restaurants or stay together in most hotels.

The repulsive effect of repeal of the sex laws on other legislation is causing the government to drag its feet. There is strong pressure for repeal, however, from liberal whites, the Coloured and Indian parliamentary chambers, and all the churches, other than the white Dutch Reformed Church. President Botha has himself said the laws are no longer necessary. If they are not abolished his reformist credentials will be in tatters.

Michael Hornsby

Anne Sofer

## From the GLC front line

County Hall, Sunday. I write from the trenches. The battle to set a legal budget for Greater London rages around me, and worn out by days (and good parts of nights as well) of defending polemic and pomposity, of posturing, propaganda and plain pig-headedness, I no longer know who is winning. I hope that by tomorrow morning, when I am safely sleeping off the fumes of smoke-filled rooms, poisonous reiterations and rate-payers' whiffy, you will pick up your crisp, clean copy of *The Times* and read in a quiet, non-committal paragraph on another page that the GLC at 11.59 - one minute before its legal deadline - set a precept. But my confidence is waning.

Chaos reigns. For a start, we no longer have a majority party in the council chamber. The Labour Party is supposed to occupy this position, but it can no longer agree on anything. And I mean anything: whether or not to stop for a meal; whether or not to go home to bed; whether or not to set up a committee; and if so who should be in the chair; whether or not what some propose to do is legal; who should move it or second it - and, finally, whether or not to set a precept.

On all of these we have had argument and votes and shouting and rows - aided and abetted by teams of observers in the public gallery (or possibly the same group, with the most remarkable staying power) who shout "Hypocrites", "Scab", "Sell-out", "Traitors", and similar startlingly original insults at the appropriate moments.

From time to time front-bench Labour members rush out to give interviews on radio and television repudiating the treasury of their colleagues. Livingstone is betraying the Labour movement," intones his deputy, John McDonnell. "John McDonnell will never be forgiven by the people of London until the day he dies", Livingstone snarls back.

Fundamental to an understanding of what is going on are three facts: ● The selection of parliamentary candidates is going on in constituency Labour parties all over London.

● A certificate of law-breaking is required of any applicant for the short-list: being arrested on a picket line is good, but voting against the making of a legal precept is better.

● If a precept is not made, all those responsible are likely to be disqualified from public office (as well as bankrupted) so the trick is to vote illegally but get defeated. This requires some nimble footwork.

Until a week or two ago it looked as if it would all work like clockwork. The Tories and the Alliance would move alternative budgets, of course; but, having been defeated, would allow through a legal budget from the Labour right wing. However, things are now going badly wrong; largely because Livingstone, undoubtedly a clever politician, is trying to be too clever, he is trying to contrive not only

that he will get his law-breaker's certificate (without having to pay for it), but also that the budget that is eventually passed, by the legal members of the council, gives him total freedom of action next year.

He has persuaded the legal wing of his Labour group to accept a document widely known as the Reg Race Budget - called after its creator, the former left-wing Labour MP, now on the council's payroll. This is a magic document, which one is permitted to call legal or illegal at will. Livingstone himself says it is illegal - a "deficit budget" which sets council spending way above its income. And, certainly, that's what it looks like.

The legal wing stop their ears to this talk. They have been assured that it is legal. They have been to no less a person than Mr Roger Henderson QC, who says it is legal. It is legal because it adopts a "mechanism" for ensuring "financial discipline". A new super-committee to vet all spending plans will be established to "reconcile" the budget with the precept.

And who will chair this powerful body? The leader of the council, of course, the very person who has publicly and repeatedly pledged to undertake no such reconciliation. Some legality. Certainly too much for anyone outside that bamboozled group of fall-guys - the Labour centre-right - to swallow. Meanwhile, the true, the pure, the shining ultra-left see it all as counter-revolution, and are turning against their hero.

At the beginning of the meeting this was the line-up: 15 clinging stubbornly to the revolutionary "No rate" solution; 35 or so for the legal/illegal optical illusion; three for a generous (and firmly legal) Alliance budget; 39 for a tough Tory one; one maverick Tory yet to declare his hand; and another shooting game in India.

Tories and Alliance alike had shown a willingness to compromise, but Labour members are frozen into their respective minority postures - "No rate" on the one hand; "No less than the maximum" on the other. Because neither will compromise, the extraordinary likelihood now is that the rate will eventually be set below Patrick Jenkin's maximum. If not that, there will be indeed no rate at all.

Whatever the outcome, the effect of the long-running row on the Labour Party in London probably cannot be over-estimated. The bitterness, the intransigence, the screaming matches - "You bitch; you cow" hurled from one Labour woman councillor to another - have disgraced and embarrassed some of the number. Others are so disillusioned that they are almost pleased to see their sentiments vindicated. One publicly declared that "the language of politics has been completely devalued". That must be the understatement of the last four years.

The author is SDP member of the GLC/LEA for St Pancras North.

moreover... Miles Kington

## Down at the Old Ron and Bush

Since speculating recently on why normal decent British pubs have started to disappear under grandiose themes, cocktail neon, deafening disco decor, and so on, I have received a varied and interesting mailbag. Here are some of the best letters.

From Sidney Greenpeace. Sir, I can report a very curious experience indeed from my local, The Dog and Three Jolly Referees, as it used to be called. Last week it was transformed into a disco theme pub, The Antarctic Arms, based on the Captain Scott legend. I was sitting in the corner minding my own business, drinking a Snowball and tucking into a wholemeal pie and a packet of husky-flavoured crisps, my mittened hands held out piteously to the one small heater in the middle of the floor, when all of a sudden a bloke in a suit came in and started tearing down the Union Jack and the picture of Queen Victoria hanging on the wall.

"What are you doing that for?" I said. "We're changing the theme," he said. "Business is too slow at the South Pole. This place is called The Old Mountbatten now."

And before my very eyes a gang of interior decorators burst in and turned the place into an Indian palace, with red blobs of betel juice all over the floor. They renamed one room Hindu Bar and another Muslim Bar, and before you knew where you were there was an almighty fight going on. I got out pretty quick, I can tell you.

From Kevin Highgrass. Sir, I found myself standing in a modern disco-pub the other night next to a famous footballer, so I said to him I thought he'd played a good game on Saturday. "Thanks, mate," he said. "I'll have a Tequila Sunrise." I explained, somewhat nervously, that I couldn't really afford a cocktail. "Thanks, mate," he said again. "I'll have a Tequila Sunrise." I looked closer and realized he was a life-size, motorized dummy with a recording device. The barman admitted that, unable to lure soccer stars, the brewery had started installing fake ones. Can this be right?

From Sir Archibald Likely. Sir, while standing in a Whitehall pub the other evening, the barman... No, sorry, got the grammar wrong there. While I was standing in a Whitehall pub, the barman took

out a tape from the background music machine and inserted another one. To our amazement a familiar voice came out, saying: "Michael Heseltine here. Look I'm planning another dawn raid soon..."

"Blimey," said the barman, "that must be the tape the M15 man thought he'd left in here last night. He went frantic when he couldn't find it."

"I'm not surprised," I said. "Sounds as if they've been tapping Mr Heseltine's phone."

"Well," said the barman, "just goes to show that it's not just the loonies on the left they're keeping an eye on."

Many a true word... yours faithfully

From Mrs Arthur Wally. Sir, I've always wanted to start a frivolous correspondence in *The Times*, and I thought one topic might be pub tables with one leg shorter than the others. Readers might write in with suggestions as to how to prop them up. With maybe, rolled up crisp packets, or pickled onions, or those pennies they're always piling up for charity. No? Oh, well, never mind.

From Konstantin Chernenko. Sir, what with running a country and not being in the best of health, I don't get out and about much, but the previous letter reminded me of a very happy six months spent in London as member of a trade mission in 1956. We found the best method of passing on secrets was to leave them in a folded beer mat put under the short leg of a pub table, as no one ever tampered with them.

In fact, one message I left in The Marquis of Granby was, through some oversight, never picked up. An agent of mine found it there, still sealed. I'm sure of course, leaks about the Suez invasion weren't much good to us in 1976, but it just goes to show.

From the late Arthur Koestler. Hello! Yes, it's me, Arthur Koestler! Yes, there really is an after-life and let me tell you something, they never close up here. As my local, the Ambrosia Arms, they serve ambrosia. And the bad news is it's too bad. The Ambrosia Arms for Real! But the Cyprian for Real! pip pip pip pip, that's my last 10p piece but I'll be in touch. (This correspondence is now closed.)

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## HELP WANTED: AFRICA

Thirty-six years ago President Truman in his Point Four programme pledged the resources and technology of the developed world to relieve poverty in what came to be called the Third World. Today, after hundreds of billions of dollars have been invested to that aim, an emergency conference of the United Nations convenes in Geneva to raise up to 4 billion dollars for drought and famine relief in Africa. What has gone wrong? It cannot all be put down to the weather. Nor, for that matter, can the long-term answer lie in a new type of colonialism in Africa. Yet those who were foremost in their agitation to wind up the European colonial empires in Africa now seem to be the most dedicated to some kind of second wave of colonialism, with Europeans deciding what is best for Africans to save them from themselves.

The reaction to Africa's present emergency has thrown up any number of contradictions of this kind. It is hard to disentangle them, yet it is important to do so since, though the immediate need is to respond as fully as possible to a cry of help, a full understanding of the historical background to this disaster is necessary. Otherwise our short-term response will simply become an open-ended attempt to mitigate suffering which, to a large extent, has been caused by human agency and human decisions. Unless we identify those human causes of this disaster and take what action we can either to prevent them, or at least not to assist in their recurrence, the relief exercise will ultimately get nowhere and the emotional impact of refugees and starvation on our television screen will gradually recede.

Take the question of refugees. Refugees threaten to overwhelm Sudan. International assistance is necessary. The refugees, in their hundreds of thousands, have come to Sudan to escape persecution in their own homes from their own governments, Sudan's neighbours. Yet those same governments are receiving official assistance from the very nations which are now called upon to help Sudan pay for administering the refugees.

The western world subsidised

the Ethiopian Government with one billion dollars between 1974 and 1982. No questions were asked about Ethiopia's internal policies. The Dergue continued to victimize its citizens, and concentrate more on waging a civil war than on furthering policies of self-sufficiency in food, or applying this international assistance to other long-term programmes.

Take food production. The 20 African countries which are now on the verge of famine, after several years of drought, have all received vast quantities of international aid. Much of it has been squandered on prestige projects or diverted to ill-fated attempts at industrialization instead of developing self-sufficiency in food by careful agrarian policies.

If the underlying purpose of internationally financed foreign aid has been to relieve poverty, one would expect the recipient governments to have developed some machinery for distributing this financial assistance to their people. No such machinery exists. Only now, when the follies of a generation are exposed, is there some belated attempt at revision of their economic policies. This is recognized by the World Bank in its "joint programme of action" for developing sub-Saharan Africa. But how far African recipient governments have really recanted, and how much the donor organizations have really mended their ways, has to be taken largely on trust. There is a danger that the incontrovertible nature of the present crisis will induce many participants at today's conference, to give African governments the benefit of the doubt which they do not deserve. In the face of an evident and immediate humanitarian requirement, there may be a tendency to sanction further large-scale investments on the same loose criteria which have coloured the past and resulted in such widespread failure to achieve the growth which is the original purpose.

The World Bank has had to channel its investments through governments and thus through the public sector with predictably unprofitable results and a cumulative politicization of economic life into the bargain. It

is now up to African governments and those donor agencies which are allowed to work through the private sector to see what they can do to repair the damage of the past.

Take population policies. The World Bank's annual development report devoted a major section to the question. Yet the statistical base for its projections is extraordinarily haphazard. On its own admission the World Bank recognizes that only 10 African countries have held censuses in the last five years, demographic surveys are not taken regularly, are only based on samples and have to be adjusted for suspected over-estimation or under-estimation on many occasions. The worst case is probably Chad, where the last census was conducted in 1964, was only a sample survey in rural areas and small urban areas, with a complete survey confined to large urban areas.

Africa's population is obviously growing too fast for the continent's capacity to sustain it but analysis of this crisis is not helped by extravagant use of such unreliable statistics.

Indeed the inaccuracy of African statistics is not just an academic point. Given the scale of international assistance to Africa over 30 years one would expect the donor agencies to have reliable machinery for assessing the general effects of their investments. They have not. The World Bank admits that national accounts for African countries are of poor quality, late in compilation and sometimes completely unavailable. The statistical work in Africa is still at a "formative stage" and yet the calculations of population, standard of living, economic growth and everything else are bandied about by the aid lobby as though they are holy writ whereas we can now see that, far from being holy writ, they are wholly unreliable.

At a time of crisis in Africa such criticisms of the general aid policy are not likely to be well received, but they will be amplified in further detail on these pages over the next few weeks. In order to invest constructively in Africa's future, African leaders and their friends in the west have to be honest about the failures of the past.

## ROADBLOCKS ON THE LONG MARCH

The high-level Chinese delegation which arrived in Moscow last week is the latest in a series of political consultations aimed at improving relations. However, there are still significant obstacles on the uphill path to conciliation. Long-term disputes about the vast stretches of Chinese territory annexed by the USSR, and more recent ideological arguments over how best to build a communist society when its economic foundations are shaky, now seem less important than conflicts involving third countries.

Both China and the USSR wish to expand trade with the West and Japan, since they need infusions of high technology to modernize their industry. Moscow is much concerned that its rival's success in this respect will be even greater after the latest CoCom meeting in Paris. Officially the Co-ordinating Committee's embargo on exporting to communist countries any sophisticated equipment with possible military applications should apply to China as much as to the USSR and its allies, but in practice requests for exceptions are much more likely to be

granted when the destination is China.

Moscow has protested strongly at Peking's growing military contacts with the United States as laying a basis for military co-operation against the USSR. The Chinese have offended Moscow in other ways too. They treat Comecon members not as socialist comrades but as individual countries with a right to a separate role in world affairs, encouraging Romania, Hungary and even the GDR to decide their own paths. They argue that the Nato states should strengthen their defences against the Soviet threat. They offer themselves as the natural leaders of the developing world. And they refuse to overlook the "three main obstacles" - the invasion of Afghanistan, the build-up of Soviet troops on China's borders, especially in Mongolia, and Soviet support for Vietnam in its invasion of Kampuchea.

Although Sino-Soviet trade doubled last year, Moscow complains that it attained only a fifth of Chinese trade with the United States, and a tenth of that with Japan. China's hard cur-

rency is limited, and the USSR can supply less advanced but still very useful equipment and know-how, accepting goods in exchange. An important 125th anniversary of the February 1950 Sino-Soviet Friendship Treaty deplored Peking's termination of the treaty and advocated the full normalization of relations. Yet it repeatedly attacked the Chinese holding them solely responsible for the conflict between the two powers.

Any reduction in world tensions is welcome, despite Moscow's claim that "the imperialists feel uneasy" at renewed Sino-Soviet contacts. While the Soviet leaders continue to act in such a way as to threaten neighbouring states, it will remain in China's best strategic interests to preserve friendly relations with the West. The Chinese may be expanding economic co-operation with the USSR, but this is far from restoring the nightmare of a monolithic communist bloc dedicated to destroying the capitalist world. It was not quite monolithic even thirty years ago, and it is certainly not today.

## TRANSFER TO PRODUCTIVITY

If ever a tax called for the attention of a Chancellor with reforming zeal, it is the Capital Transfer Tax. Introduced to replace estate duty, which had become virtually a voluntary tax, CTT has noticeably failed in its social objective of equalising wealth. Meanwhile it has done untold damage to family businesses; it has fallen below expectations as a source of government revenue, delivering no more than the product of a halfpenny rate of income tax; and it has spawned a large and ever-growing tax avoidance industry, to exploit the widening range of reliefs and invent new loopholes faster than the Inland Revenue can stop them up. As a result, it now matches the classic definition of a bad tax with high tax rates of up to 60 per cent, large scale avoidance and distortion of markets, a low yield and heavy costs of collection.

In principle, wealth beyond the ordinary needs of man provides a suitable base for taxation, most easily collected when it is transferred as a gift or passed on by death. In principle, also, taxation of inherited wealth should stimulate enterprise and stir the fabled idle rich to action.

In practice, the history of CTT suggests it has had generally bad economic effects.

Even before the tax reached the statute book, special reliefs had been granted to working farmers. When, even so, the tax showed signs of being effective, it rapidly became clear that it was killing an undergrowth of private and family businesses and the jobs and enterprise that went with them. More reliefs were progressively introduced for business assets and farming, making CTT, in turn, largely avoidable for those sufficiently keen on passing on their wealth to organize their assets and lifestyles in the bizarre ways necessary. The old rich have concentrated on their agricultural holdings while many a City magnate has donned gumboots, driving up the price of land.

The moderately affluent, on whom most of the burden of tax has fallen, are now catered for by avoidance schemes based on lifetime gifts up to the tax threshold, which are wiped clear after ten years, and more recently, delayed gifts valued at a discount.

There is a strong case, on economic grounds, for abolishing

ing capital transfer tax. That case would be overwhelming if the barriers to the creation of new wealth among the mass of ordinary people were lower and if some more economically rational means of tapping wealth to encourage productive use, or a tax on conspicuous consumption, could be devised.

Meanwhile, the Chancellor should certainly apply to CTT the same principles that he used in his last Budget to reform corporation tax. Instead of reliefs on up to half the value of certain assets, but not on others, he should halve the rates of tax payable at death for all, perhaps with milder cuts for the lower rates of tax now charged on lifetime transfers. The exemption for gifts of up to £3,000 a year could be raised considerably, while the definition of gifts could be tightened up and the ten year rule abolished to curb avoidance schemes. A simpler tax at much lower rates and fewer reliefs might well yield more revenue. It would also minimize tax-induced distortions to people's lives. But distortions will remain so long as we are more concerned with resenting wealth than creating and spreading it.

## Immediate action to 'nail a lie'

From Mr Cecil Parkinson, MP for Hereford (Conservative)

Sir, On Tuesday I discovered *Private Eye* would be printing a lie about me and my secretary, Mrs Mathew.

I was advised that an injunction to prevent distribution would be an appropriate remedy. I sought and obtained the injunction within two and a half hours. It was confirmed in the High Court on Wednesday, the judge saying that there was a very strong prima facie case that the words were defamatory of myself and Mrs Mathew.

On Thursday *Private Eye's* appeal was dismissed unanimously by three judges in the Court of Appeal. *Private Eye's* own counsel admitted that the allegations were untrue and defamatory of me, and Lord Justice Ackner said that on any sensible reading the article was seriously defamatory of Mrs Mathew.

Mr Steel (March 9) ignores the presence in this case of a third party who is not a public figure but a private citizen. He dismisses as "an unpleasant innuendo" a matter which is a down-right lie.

Without hearing the arguments he suggests that his view about the case is to be preferred to that of the High Court and the Court of Appeal.

Mr Steel suggests that my action was evidence of a thin skin. It was in fact the most immediate and forthright way open to me of nailing a distressing lie.

Yours,  
CECIL PARKINSON,  
House of Commons,  
March 10.

## Bid for Harrods

From Mr George Copeman

Sir, The Al-Fayed bid for House of Fraser (report March 4), if successful will result in one of the best employee share schemes in Britain being destroyed, with 25,000 employees and ex-employees being paid off in cash or loan notes.

It will also cause the public listing of House of Fraser shares being abandoned, with the result that the ordinary British citizen will no longer be able to buy a stake in Harrods.

This is all in sad contrast to the privatisation programme which is creating millions of new shareholders, including employee shareholders. The Government is, for good reasons, proceeding with privatisation at considerable expense in launching fees, advertising costs, etc. yet this work is being undone by takeover bids.

Is it not time that we had, as a matter of public policy, a system for major companies similar to the control of export of works of art?

I submit that there ought to be power to require that when control of a substantial business changes hands any employee share scheme must be allowed to continue in operation and, where relevant to this, any public listing of the company's share capital. In such cases the controller's purchase would need to be limited to 75 per cent of the total share capital.

Yours faithfully,  
GEORGE COPEMAN,  
Moonraker,  
Batts Lane, Mare Hill,  
Pulborough, West Sussex,  
March 4.

## Faces of terrorism

From Sir Jack Longland

Sir, Your leader, "Murder is murder" (March 2) affirms "that the principal totalitarian state, the Soviet Union, is also the principal supplier, sponsor and supporter of terrorism as a form of political action in the non-communist world." Fair enough, and we all applaud loudly. But what about the converse?

The United States is the principal supplier, sponsor and supporter of terrorism as a form of political action in the less than communist state of Nicaragua."

I diffidently suggest, Sir, that you undertake an intensive study of geese and ganders. For both the sauce is bitter.

Yours faithfully,  
JACK LONGLAND,  
Bridgeway,  
Bakewell, Derbyshire.

## Back to the pits

From Mrs D. R. Millard

Sir, Have those churchmen in Scotland who have written to the *Wheeler* and the Government, urging them to offer an amnesty and forgiveness to those miners who have been convicted of theft, vandalism, and damage to people and property, written also to the NUM and the returning miners to show the same compassion to their colleagues who dared to exercise their right to work, thus earning the label of "scab"?

Or is it to remain that sons will continue to boast that they will never speak to their fathers again and that "once a scab, always a scab"?

Yours faithfully,  
MOLLY MILLARD,  
Mill Ford House,  
111 Street, Long Melford,  
Sudbury, Suffolk.

## The first cormorant?

From Mr G. H. Stevens

Sir, On February 28, at 9.25am, I observed a cormorant fishing in the River Thames, approximately 100 yards downstream of Vauxhall Bridge. To me that was far more exciting than hearing the first cuckoo in spring, whatever the date and time.

Yours faithfully,  
G. H. STEVENS,  
43 Fox Hill, SE19,  
March 1

## Need for check on BBC efficiency

From Mr Robert Sheldon, MP for Ashford-under-Lyne (Labour)

Sir, Your report yesterday (March 7) on the conflicting views emerging on the conclusions to be drawn from the report by consultants Peat Marwick on the BBC underlines an important constitutional issue.

Parliament will no doubt in due course be asked to decide on an increased licence fee, with apparently little reliable information on the real findings of a report specifically asked for by the Home Office to inform this very decision. This is not proper accountability.

Surely this strengthens the case for giving the Comptroller and Auditor General, as head of the National Audit Office, the necessary access to the BBC - and to other such bodies in receipt of massive public funds - to report to Parliament on the economy, efficiency and effectiveness with which those funds are being used.

The National Audit Office would then be responsible for setting the terms of reference for the enquiry and for determining the scope of the report, taking due account of commercially sensitive issues.

At the very least the National Audit Office should in this particular case be given the right to examine the consultants' findings independently and report its conclusions to Parliament.

Yours faithfully,  
ROBERT SHELDON, Chairman,  
Committee of Public Accounts,  
House of Commons,  
March 8.

From the director of Finance, BBC

Sir, Mr David Hewson, in his piece on Peat Marwick's "value for money" review of the BBC (March 8), mentions a Home Office view that the brief for the study meant it had "no bearing on the economics of the licence fee application." He then implies that Peat's terms of reference were so worded by the BBC as effectively to bar them from looking at manning levels and whether new technology was being used efficiently.

I must point out that the terms of reference were drawn up by the BBC in full consultation with both the Home Office and with Peat Marwick. Indeed the key sentence - "to ascertain and report on what reasonable expectations exist of the Corporation achieving economies through increased efficiency, while maintaining the range and quality of existing services" - was directly agreed with the Home Office and precisely met what they had asked us to do. All parties regarded such considerations as being at the very heart of the arguments for an increased licence fee.

As to Peat Marwick: they certainly had only a limited time in which to do their work. But I do not see how such words barred them from investigating any aspect of "value for money".

Yours faithfully,  
GEOFF BUCK,  
Director of Finance,  
BBC,  
Broadcasting House, W1  
March 8

## Reduced funding for the National

From the Director of the National Theatre

Sir, In your parliamentary report on the recent Lords debate on the arts (March 7) Lord Gower accused me and others of talking "irresponsible rubbish" by claiming that arts subsidies are being reduced. To make his point, he says that since 1978/79 there has been an increase in real terms of 18 per cent. But this statement completely fudges the issue.

The figure he quotes is in respect of all the arts right across the board. I and my theatre colleagues have been arguing the case for the performing arts only, whose grants in nearly every case have regularly fallen well below the level of inflation, with crippling effect.

In the same debate Lord Gower said he knows many directors would be delighted to have the subsidy the NT gets. He has repeated this so many times now that he must consider it a powerful argument. It is of course a meaningless one.

Clearly our subsidy would be absurdly luxurious for most theatres. Equally clearly, chiefly because of

the expense of the building itself, it is insufficient for us - otherwise it would not have been necessary to close the Cottesloe and make redundancies.

As Lord Gower knows, we are housed in probably the most costly theatre building in Europe. It is surely time the Government, who put it up, either came to terms with that fact or admitted that they cannot afford properly to fund us as we are presently constituted, and examined alternatives.

All agree that Britain's subsidised theatre is one of our great glories. It also yields back to the state far more money than is invested in it by the state.

So while its health is seriously threatened by the withholding of relatively small injections of cash, I shall continue to speak out publicly on its behalf. This seems - to me at least - the most responsible thing I can do.

Yours faithfully,  
PETER HALL, Director,  
National Theatre,  
South Bank, SE1  
March 8.

## But, Minister

From Mr Leonard Tivey

Sir, Few can doubt that a searching review of the relationship of the Civil Service to the political system is now required, as suggested in your leading article of March 1. A royal commission or similar independent body is essential for the enquiry if confidence beyond the present Government is to be sustained.

I would like to suggest two possibilities to be explored. One is hiring-off from the central core to separate organisations of large sections of public business. The public servants in these organisations could be expected to embrace the ethos of managerial efficiency now so popular.

However, they should operate beyond the range of any official secrets legislation, and their top managers should be encouraged to play an open, if non-partisan, part in public policy discussion. Government control of these organisations should be by open direction, not private contact.

## Local accountability

From the Secretary of the Association of County Councils

Sir, If "the Government's ambition of shrinking the local state still strikes a chord" (leading article, March 7), it is not with members of the Association of County Councils. Although you probably would not include us in the category of Fun Revolutionaries, I suspect you may still feel that we would say that, wouldn't we?

May I therefore invite you and your readers to concentrate on the first remedy which you proposed, namely the local ballot box. It is not only unfair but distracts attention when you throw in comments such as "municipal inefficiency" and the education of uncapped councils.

There are alternatives to rate-capping, one of which is the Layfield Committee's version of local accountability. The alternative may be a system by which local electors finance directly local expenditure by a local income tax or other sources of local revenue. Local government

expenditure would be under control - but it would be local control.

But the financial system, though important, cannot be divorced from your remedy of the local ballot box. We need less power for politicians and officials at both central and local level. We need a system of local taxation and accountability which is fair and equitable to the voter and ratepayer and which is seen to be so, one which they can understand and use to influence the decisions taken by their councillor. They should feel able to do something in those cases where they are dissatisfied.

The aim of this Association is to increase control by those who elect their local representatives and pay the bill. Cannot *The Times* support this aim and be positive in encouraging a new look to find a better way ahead?

Yours etc,  
JOHN STEVENSON, Secretary,  
Association of County Councils,  
Eaton House,  
66a Eaton Square, SW1  
March 7

## Taxing unused sites

From Mr E. Penrose

Sir, Your correspondent Mr John Hatherley (about enterprise zones and the increment coming the way of the landowners. I would draw your readers' attention to what has been happening in the city of McKeesport, Pennsylvania, which depends heavily on the steel industry; unemployment has been far above the national average there with consequent depression and economic malaise.

However, in 1980 the city introduced a two-rate tax. It increased the tax rate on land from 2.4 per cent to 9 per cent. At the same time it decreased the tax rate on buildings from 2.43 per cent to 2 per cent. New construction was

given a three-year tax exemption (but not the underlying land assessment).

Result? Total property tax revenues increased by almost 50 per cent. New construction and rehabilitation of the three-year period averaged 38 per cent more than in the previous three-year period. When land is taxed more, an incentive is created for the owner to put their sites into good order and to provide a fuller use for the community. When buildings are taxed less it is easier for landowners to improve their sites.

Tax land values and we create the incentive for it to be used properly - and economic growth results. Yours faithfully,  
E. PENROSE,  
34 Dorset Square, NW1  
March 5.

## ON THIS DAY

MARCH 11 1863

On May 7 1832, Greece was proclaimed an independent state under the protection of Britain, France and Russia, and Otto, son of the king of Bavaria, was made king. He was deposed in 1862 and a provisional government was formed. The people desired a constitutional monarchy on the lines of that of Britain and, following a referendum, Prince Alfred, second son of Queen Victoria and Prince Albert was elected. As Britain was one of the protecting powers he was unable to accept the crown which was then offered to Prince William George of Schleswig-Holstein, who, as George, king of the Hellenes, began his reign in October 1863.

## THE REVOLUTION IN GREECE

(BY OUR SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT)

ATHENS, FEB. 27.

The army not being sufficiently in hand to take the oath on Sunday, that day was devoted by the Assembly to discuss a new form of government. As could have been foreseen before, a Provisional Government of three members has not been formed, and the idea which at first found few supporters was taken up again. It was to have no Provisional Government at all, and thus not to expose the Assembly again to come into a collision, but to elect seven Ministers and a President by open vote, each Minister for his own place and responsible for it, and all the Ministers heads responsible as a body, and representing the sovereignty of the Assembly. The two parties - that is, Plain and Mountain - met for once and came to an understanding. All the leaders excluded themselves and combined to bring forward non-unoppositional, but not too prominent...

The Ministry is called a transition Ministry; whether it will be so or not will depend a good deal on themselves. Its programme is short and unexceptionable. It may be summarised as maintenance of order and security, organization of the National Guard, amelioration of finance, and the speedy election of a King. The desire of the immense majority of the people could not have been embodied better. The only difficulty is to carry out the programme.

The National Guard... turned out in a body, doing all the services of police in the town, occupying the forts left by the soldiers, and furnishing numerous patrols by night and day. It is not best for their devotion, the disbanded soldiers might have done as they pleased, whereas, in spite of the general confusion little or no excesses have occurred. Here and there an okla of wine drunk and not paid for, or a scolding for no official permission for entering of houses or breaking open of shops. The only exception was the Arsenal which was filled of its contents.

But in order to make the National Guard thoroughly an official command is absolutely required: whoever it is to be, he ought to be found soon, for military pronouncement having been tried by one party, there is no knowing why the other party, who had the worst of it last time, should not try them likewise.

A King! a King! is the watchword of every one since the late lamentable events occurred, and every rumour which comes from abroad is eagerly caught up. The last is a Prince of Denmark, supported by France and England, but no official confirmation has been made either about this latter or any one else.

## The Speaker's memoirs

From Mr Michael Foot, MP for Blaenau Gwent (Labour)

Sir, Permit me to reply to two of your correspondents (March 7). When Sir Charles Gordon, with all his experience, says that I am wrong to suggest that Mr Speaker Thomas usually accepted without question the advice given him by his officials, I naturally accept his statement. He is certainly an expert on that aspect of the subject.

However, he also adds, most intriguingly, that any later opinion he might form on official advice topics would be conveyed only privately. I presume he might think that a similar discretion would be advisable for the Speaker himself.

A slightly different view was taken by a previous clerk, Sir Barnett Cocks. At a moment when one of Mr Speaker Thomas's most contentious rulings was being discussed, he, with all his experience, described that ruling as "a somewhat astonishing one." That was what I felt at the time, and I am sure Sir Barnett had ventured to give his views, and why I believed I was fully entitled to make representations, politely and privately, to Mr Speaker Thomas.

I doubt if I can help your other correspondent, Richard Moore who says that he cannot see the difference between what a Cabinet Minister, fully engaged in party controversies, may properly reveal and what Mr Speaker, who has pledged himself to impartiality and independence, may reveal. I would have thought the distinction easy enough to make.

It is my view - and I believe it is widely shared in the House of Commons - that if Viscount Tonypandy's example of disclosure were to be followed, the independence and authority of the Chair would be undermined. I want to stop that happening. Yours faithfully,  
MICHAEL FOOT,  
House of Commons,  
March 8.

From Mr Andrew F. A. Powles

Sir, May one humbly say to Lord Tonypan and Mr Michael Foot, through the courtesy of your columns - "Order Order!" Yours faithfully,  
ANDREW F. A. POWLES,  
Deans Farm Cottage,  
Arkesden,  
Saffron Walden, Essex.

## Brave face on it

From Mr J. H. Dunlop

Sir, Over-60s are subdivided. Some are "wonderful", others are "wonderful", considering. Yours faithfully,  
J. H. DUNLOP,  
Corners,  
The Street,  
Ighiteam,  
Nr Sevenoaks Kent







## THE ARTS

# Robert Robinson writes the following prologue to the centenary history of OUDS, published this week

## An Oxford elegy for the comprehensiveness of drama

I remember it as always being dusk, with a breeze lifting the notices on the walls of someone else's lodge, as you walked through the arch of the college under the yellow light which had just been turned on, and went up an alien staircase with the fatuous expectation of a punter entering a casino. The actual audition would have very little to do with dramatic skill, since it was, unlikely in the extreme, that the aspiring undergraduate actually had any, or indeed if he displayed the faintest vestige of it, that his examiner (no less self-appointed than the candidate himself) would have recognized it. But what raised the hearts of both parties was the possibility that each would find the other's effrontery an endorsement of his own. It really couldn't have been otherwise, though the outcome of the encounter was seldom as symmetrical an exchange as took place when a man who had criticized my impure vowels ended by offering me the leading part in the play he was about to produce. Not until he led me to the door did I dimly fathom that one member of the walking-wounded had recognized another - "Don't worry about those vowels of yours," he said. "I'm sure they'll come along splendidly."

What joined us all was a common wish to shine, an acceptable motivation in the young, even though the desire would always outrun the performance. There is at this moment a lawyer on Highgate Hill whose desperate tottering, left and right (designed to indicate

the effect of heavy seas on a vessel about to founder), drew a wondrous hilarity out of lines Shakespeare couldn't have dreamt had a laugh in them; a marine insurer not a million miles from the Kingston By-pass who to this day does not know that his unique stiff-legged walk threw fresh light on one of the Bard's tragic heroes, in that the audience found itself preoccupied with the question, did he or did he not have a broomstick up each trouser leg; and a lady of mature years, long a pillar of the WI in Sussex, who, draped in the usual sort of twentieth-century juvenile leads, was still able to hoist it up to her knicker-sock, withdraw a handkerchief (white samite, match), and sneeze into it as the hero carefully imitated himself on a rubber sword.

We expected much of our audiences, we put them to the test. When some of us exhumed a dreadful play by John Ford and staged it in Wadham garden, I do believe we really thought they would rise to their feet and cheer simply because this was the first performance the piece had received in four hundred years. Wading through the fustian like Burke and Hare, we took over three hours to reach the first interval, at which time it was clear that our own morose solemnity had not been matched by the spectators, and chaps' own mothers and fathers who come up specially were seen tiptoeing away into the muck, never to return. Towards one o'clock in the

morning the curtain more or less came down, though by then the audience had been reduced to a few sports who afterwards frankly confessed they'd stayed on only to find out if Perkin Warbeck, the luckless hero (then clad in nothing but his stockings, and tied to a stake), could keep his face straight while his thighs underwent a severe tickling in the course of being clutched at the final twelve minutes of leaden apostrophe.

But there is nothing a determined narcissist will not endure. Shortly after my triumph as Perkin Warbeck I was to be seen, naked save for a pair of shiny knickers, and covered in green scales, being poled across the Isis in a punt strewn with fairy-lights. Indefatigable attendance at auditions had secured for me the role of the River God, in a masque that had been written by a girl poet for the birthday of one of her chums. The entertainment was to be initiated by the vessel, with myself as its cargo, being shunted across the river to one of the college barges, on whose upper deck the audience was assembled. Things got off to a slowish start, for not only was the current running strongly but the oarsmen were drunk. Three times we bore down upon the barge and three times were swept past it. By the time the punt was suitably twisting on its own axis in front of the barge, the audience lining the rails were crying with laughter, and though the poet's lines were well-turned I was fairly well-turned myself as I

delivered them, since, the punt revolving in one direction, I was obliged to revolve in the other. It was at this point that the first penny landed at my feet, one of the oarsmen tipped over into the briny, and both the poet and her friend were in floods of tears.

Perhaps it was the ornate, not to say rococo, location of the audience on that occasion that made me feel the real play was taking place offstage: the play that was disrupted did not disrupt the real play, of which the one you auditioned for was simply an ingredient - and on the night in question a pretty minor ingredient at that, with my green scales swathed in a handy raincoat, a bottle of South African sherry at my lips, and viewing the various tableaux vivants which had developed, I was able to judge. But carrying the thought a little further, I doubt if anyone who was a member of that OUDS party which toured *The Alchemist* and *King Lear* round the campuses of the Middle West so long ago could feel, either then or now, that the plays had a tenth the fictional power of the event itself - a power which sometimes seemed to seed itself within the performances as they were taking place.

For instance, how strange it was to be playing two parts simultaneously, that of the Duke of Burgundy and that of a man who has stuck his crown together with elastoplast and feels the gum melting under the heat of his head. I have written about this event, but even the act of writing it down has not exorcised my conviction that the

relationship between Lear and Cordelia cannot compare in intensity with those moments lived through by a man whose toy crown is creeping millimetre by millimetre down his skull. In this brief space of time it seemed to me that the entire apparatus of this production of *King Lear* had been brought into being simply so that, a short while after the play began, a fifteen-second micro-drama could develop, in which I was condemned to be the only actor. Lear grabbed me by the shoulder, we waltzed into the wings, but not before the crown had spun round my neck like a well-thrown horseshoe. It was as though the play of which mere plays were a simplified version had decided to sidle on stage for a moment, and show its strength.

And, perhaps naturally, it is fragments of this larger piece, this more comprehensive drama, which remain, while all the lines I ever merely learned are long gone and have left no trace behind them. What were the first words that Tybalt spoke? What was it Face began the proceedings with? Or Cassio, or Mephistopheles? Silence now, at any rate. But I still smell the dust hanging in the air of a deserted lecture-room, the syringa in a college garden where the words were spoken; footsteps, someone smiling, sighs and sounds which were unremarkable but are unforgotten, part of an entertainment in which there was no division into actor and audience, and for which no audition was required.

OUDS by Humphrey Carpenter, Oxford, £12.95



Sir Peter Parker, former Chairman of British Rail and a contemporary of Robert Robinson at Oxford, as King Lear in 1950

## Concerts

### BBC SO/Boulez

#### Festival Hall/Radio 3

Now that conducting is once more a rare activity for Boulez, he has returned to the citadel of his repertory a quarter-century ago: his own music, and the choice of twentieth-century masterpieces on which that music is based and towards which it aspires. So it was on Friday. The first half of his concert was occupied by his own *Rituel*, the second by works which seemed to nestle around that piece: Stravinsky's similarly memorial, monumental *Symphonies of Wind Instruments*, orchestral scores from the beginning and end of Webern's career, and Berg's *Three Pieces*. Op. 6, themselves directed towards a funeral march.

Each time one hears *Rituel* it seems to become more absolutely itself, more massive and implacable. This is not a matter of speed: Friday's performance was almost exactly the same in length as the one Boulez recorded with this orchestra more than eight years ago. What has happened in the interim is a growth in the weight with which the harmony is felt. The huge chorales placed through the work now seem to move still more inexorably towards their final chords in E flat, and somehow Boulez suppresses any potential liveliness in the intervening polyphonies to emphasize their solemnity and fixity.

It also appears that one hears more of the seven percussive time-keepers ticking away the seconds like a counterpoint of clocks. *Rituel* is like nothing else: it is not even much like the colossal movements of Messiaen, to which it has most frequently been compared. And yet the planning of this concert made it seem, not a little disturbingly, the very goal of music since before the First World War. Here were its three elder composers, here its resolute group division of the orchestra in Stravinsky and late Webern, here the percussive skitterings of its second part in Berg. One almost shuddered each time that awful middle E flat came into prominence.

Perhaps the connection is closest in the Stravinsky, not only because Stravinsky's work, like Boulez's, was written in

remembrance of a fellow composer (Debussy, to his successor's Maderna), but also because *Rituel* can be seen as a gigantic offshoot from the piece Boulez offered to Stravinsky's memory: "...explosante-fixe...". Indeed, it is almost a realization of that malleable score, where again E flat is the focus for litany of repetition and cycles of change.

On this occasion, though, Stravinsky's piece suffered some accidents in the performance: it was in Webern that Boulez restored the rapport he enjoys with the BBC Symphony, drawing from them a Passacaglia of hectic tempo shifts and crystallized romantic warmth, and a Variations of proud character in all those gawky phrases. Finally the Berg pieces ended the concert with that sense of triumphant rediscovery peculiar to Boulez evenings. He has conducted this score dozens of times, and often more securely, but perhaps not so very often with such sensuality in the middle movement, or indeed such treble energy in the finale.

Paul Griffiths

## London debuts

Two overseas pianists, unfortunately playing on the same evening, both displayed safe techniques in safe Romantic repertoire. The Dublin-born Leonora Carney gave the metre of Brahms's Scherzo, Op. 4, rather a bumpy ride, mainly because she over-lengthened each anacrusis in the trio; and the thick textures and rhythmic complexities of Brahms's Variations, Op. 21, were confused by too much indiscriminate pedalling. Both here and in Schumann's Allegro, Op. 8, however, she compensated with a pleasant, even touch and a lively interpretative awareness which a greater width of dynamic expression will only reinforce in future.

The German pianist Matthias Zimmermann played Beethoven, Chopin and Liszt in the Purcell Room, where one felt his big sound and grand approach was slightly cramped. The Purcell Room tends to favour an analytical listening experience rather than an emotional one: in such conditions it was impossible to ignore splashes of wrong notes that slightly marred the heroic drive of his Chopin F minor Fantasia.

Still, he passed with distinction through that test of octaves, Liszt's "Dante" Fantasia, where his exquisitely controlled tremolando near the end was as effective as the granite-like strength he brought to the conclusion.

Richard Morrison



Passionate people rather than mere divas: Kathryn Harries (left), Suzanne Murphy

## Dance

### Unhappily costumed

Number Three  
Covent Garden

Songs of a Wayfarer  
Congress, Eastbourne

Here is a fine carry-on. Less than two weeks after the fiasco of *Ballet Imperial*, the Covent Garden management had to announce before Saturday night's premiere of Number Three that the choreographer, Michael Corder, was not happy about the costume designs by the American painter Helen Frankenthaler. Understandably, too.

The ballet is set to Prokofiev's Third Piano Concerto (Elgar Howarth, conductor); Philip Gammon, soloist: a serviceable performance). Corder has described it as "a total music conception". That seems to mean 35 minutes of choreographic doodling to the music. In the first movement, Lesley Collier and Mark Silver, plus three soloists and seven supporting couples, skip about and kick their legs up. In the second, Bryony Brind bourrées around to interrupt the leading pair while three more couples teeter behind. Finally all the soloists plus an augmented ensemble gather in big formations, and do more energetic high-kicks to bring the curtain down.

Frankenthaler's backcloths, one for each movement, are big abstract paintings. First, a blue squiggly line and yellow, red and pink blobs. Mauve and grey are added for the next one and it is sometimes lit blue. The final movement has a red background, and among the yellow splodges I thought I recognized a peanut and a dog's bone, this latter perhaps explaining why the most prominent feature is a group of what look like great dollops of canine excrement.

Bravely, Corder has expressed "enormous enthusiasm" for these settings. The unlikely costumes are simply tights dabbed with colour, as if the designer had wiped off her brushes on the material. Corder has asked instead, for plain

white costumes. He will get his wish tomorrow and on March 29; Frankenthaler's version will be shown on Thursday and April 1. A judgement of Solomon, indeed.

The evening began with a disastrous account of *The Firebird*, Marguerite Porter in the title part looked unwell, but there was no excuse for the underpowered dances of Koshchei's followers, or the innumerable dropped catches in the dance with the golden apples. Even Jiffi Kylians *Return to the Strange Land*, with a cast of six principals or soloists, rarely achieved more than a mediocre competence. This was also the only work all evening that was well lit. What is becoming of the Royal Ballet?

Festival Ballet's programme at Eastbourne on Friday was more encouraging. It included the company's premiere of Maurice Béjart's *Songs of a Wayfarer*, the two-man duet to Mahler's song-cycle created in 1971 for Nureyev and Bolotnikov. To cast it for two more or less unknown young dancers is presumably a deliberate boast about Festival's growing strength on the male side. Craig Randolph and Darryl Norton dance with admirable clarity and strength, but more personality and dramatic nuance are needed to make the most of the work.

There was a new cast in the recently mounted *L'Arlesienne*. Matz Skoog's evident wholeheartedness cannot hide the fact that, having gone all out in the early solos, he lacks the reserves to produce extra power for the long final sequence of mounting frustration, and that slightly blunts the climax. Virginie Alberi, however, gives a sweetly sensitive account of the bride.

A new recruit, Alessandro Molin, formerly with Aterballetto in Reggio Emilia, was thrown in at the deep end, dancing both the *Don Quixote* pas de deux and one of the leads in *Etudes* because of another dancer's injury. Dancing both roles for the first time, he gave a resourceful, vigorous and unfettered account that promises well.

John Percival

## Opera

### The women come thrillingly into their own

Norma  
New Theatre, Cardiff

Anyone still ready to dub Bellini a composer of melacholic melodies should hasten to the Welsh National Opera's new *Norma* in Cardiff. The company uses the team responsible for the original and thought-provoking *Puritani* a couple of years ago at the same address: Andrei Serban and Michael Yeargan for the staging, Julian Smith in the pit and Suzanne Murphy as principal soprano. The WNO *Norma*, full of vigour and invention, musically thrilling, is if anything better.

The starting point for Serban's production is that *Norma* is a tale of two women: their rivalry, their passions and their mutual devotion. Norma, the high priestess of the Druids, and Adalgisa, the novice, are there on stage confronting each other during the overture as the full moon over Irminsul gradually becomes obscured. (After his

equally successful *Turandot* at Covent Garden, Serban is becoming something of a lunar expert.) And at the end they are linked hand in hand, in the shape of a cross, in the smoke of the funeral pyre. Pollioune, the Roman prefect, past lover of one and would-be lover of the other, tries to join them but is held back.

This is a slight liberty taken by Serban with the instructions of Bellini's librettist, Romani, who has Norma and Pollioune going together into the burning fiery furnace. But Serban has never been averse to the occasional liberty. He clearly sees the great Norma/Adalgisa duet, "Si fino all'ora" (the opera is sung in Italian), in which the two ladies pledge each other eternal support, as the core of the work. Men, notably the Druid Oroveso and the Roman Pollioune, are unfeeling brutes.

Only the women, in this profeminist *Norma*, command sympathy and have true emotions. And so to Serban's

second statement: *Norma* (like *Aida* and several other operas) concerns the public face and the private grief, patriotism and love. To make the point Serban has the whole cast put on masks for public functions and remove them when they are telling the truth. The device has its clumsy moments and demands a lot from the singers, especially when they are in mid-aria. But it does allow Norma and Adalgisa to let their hair down quite literally - chestnut for the first and raven black for the second - when they are revealing their innermost secrets: it permits them too to be a pair of passionate women rather than a couple of operatic divas.

Not that there is anything second-rate about the singing. Suzanne Murphy's Norma, like the moon over Irminsul, had one or two cloudy moments, vocally. But for most of the evening it was thrillingly full-throated, lacking neither stamina nor the control for the start of "Casta Diva". Kathryn Harries's tone for Adalgisa was at times too open, but the

intensity of her stage presence, reacting to every change in Norma's situation, more than compensated. The two ladies spurred each other to greater and greater efforts: their voices blended with creamy ease. And that is the starting point for casting any *Norma*.

Two North Americans came in for Pollioune and Oroveso. Frederick Donaldson, all black leather and studs, turned Pollioune into a gauleiter, except when Serban wheeled in his two children by Norma (a shade too often) to remind him of parental responsibilities. His hurly, clarion tenor was ideal for the part. Oroveso is a dull role, but Harry Dworkhak's imposing boss made it sound better than it is.

A programme photograph suggests that Michael Yeargan drew his inspiration for the sets from Pompeii. He starts with an excessively foggy night in Irminsul. But the mists clear to reveal broken columns and ruined dwellings: Pollioune's attempt to build a little Italy among the Druids clearly failed through lack of maintenance. All is beautifully lit.

Julian Smith's handling of the orchestra throughout was as passionate as Serban's view of an opera all too often fossilized into a series of enclosed numbers. There are no fossils when Serban is around. With productions around as imaginative and as musically invigorating as WNO's *Norma* and ENO's *Verdes British opera* is looking in good fettle this spring.

John Higgins

● After Cardiff *Norma* visits Birmingham, Liverpool, Oxford, Bristol and Southampton.

Amadigi di Gaula  
Radio 3

While London's two major opera houses have so far between them managed only a staging of an oratorio and a slightly bizarre though attractive production of *Verres*, the BBC's opera department has begun its anniversary season of Handel operas with a majestic triumph. The audio production for the European Broadcasting Union of *Amadigi* in a period-style performance conducted by Roger Norrington can be heard tonight.

*Amadigi*, incredibly, has not been given professionally since 1717. The research for this occasion has been executed thoroughly, restoring as exactly as possible Handel's intentions for the first performance at the King's Theatre on May 25, 1715. The version seen then was unique; a cast change necessitated some instant revision on the second night, and subsequent performances included additional material. Some misunderstandings of orchestration perpetrated by the work's recent editors have been cleared up, and Amadigi's aria "Affanami

tormentami" has been restored to Act II, though the ballet music of Act I is still missing.

But the most important thing is that we can now hear this music at all. Its consistently high calibre is quite remarkable, representing the Italianate Handel at his most vividly expressive. Aria after aria exudes an intensity of passion, of torment, anger, evil or love, and the sheer variety that the composer manages to achieve within his conventional opera seria plot is staggering, even for him.

The cast is small, just five simply drawn characters, one of whom, Orlando (sung by Stephen Varcoc), takes part only in two brief recitatives and the closing chorus. Amadigi, the male hero, is given by Eirian James in a slightly hard-edged yet rich voice (the production follows Handel's practice of using women's voices where no castrati were available for men's roles). His lover, Oriana, is Patricia Kwella, who relishes this gem of a part. On the side of evil are the enchantress Melissa, sung with sometimes over-gentle spite by Rachel Yakar - but then even some of her music is quite lovely - and the prince Dardanus, intent on

wining Oriana for himself. Anne Mason tempers his arrogant nobility with an almost boyish impetuosity.

Such committed and stylish singing is reflected in the playing of the London Baroque Players, who make a clean and frequently exciting sound, relishing the colours of Handel's economical scoring, while the recitatives are propelled along by the dramatically astute continuo team of Jennifer Warr, Clarke and Celia Harper as much as by the singers.

Stephen Pettitt

## Television

### Pure technology

In the Secret State (BBC 2) had an engaging start, when a renegade civil servant fell from a Whitehall window and managed to "leak" only blood. This was a "secret state" not only because its real powers remained undisclosed but also because it discovered the secrets of others through the bewildering procedures of electronic surveillance. Perhaps it ought to be pointed out that this was drama rather than documentary, although the theme must suggest as much: in recent years computers have become the stuff of melodrama (like Victorian heroines, they are pure but vulnerable to the attentions of evil men), and last night's programme was melodramatic in inspiration if not always in tone. Certainly it appealed to the more obvious emotions of the audience - in this case, a rather sensationalist interest in new technology and a morbid but infinite capacity to be outraged by the attack of "them" upon "us".

But it had its compensations - the plot (taken from a novel by Robert McCrum) was ingenious and there were some remarkable performances, most notably from Matthew March as the tenacious James Quit-

man. As a result, the presentation of Britain as an incipient police state, in which technology and barbarism are fatally combined, was dramatic if not wholly convincing - I suspect that it had about as much relation to the administrative uses of computer technology as *Sweeney Todd* did to the barber's trade. But, of course, one never knows.

The last of Irish Love Stories on Channel 4, *The Eagles and the Trumpets*, was a very charming piece of work in which the peculiarly silken quality of Irish life was evoked. Its period setting, just after the Second World War, might seem to have become the preserve of William Trevor, whose lyrical naturalism has lent it a charmed life. But James Plunkett's story caught a distinctive note of pathos and of loss, in his depiction of a small world where "the eagles and the trumpets" are glimpsed only in quotations from the work of the great poet. And it was excellently acted throughout, with special mention for a perfectly realized performance by Jim Norton as the unhappy commercial traveller.

Peter Ackroyd

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74.5W	Chickadee	68.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
72.5W	Chickadee	66.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
70.5W	Chickadee	64.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
68.5W	Chickadee	62.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
66.5W	Chickadee	60.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
64.5W	Chickadee	58.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
62.5W	Chickadee	56.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
60.5W	Chickadee	54.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
58.5W	Chickadee	52.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
56.5W	Chickadee	50.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
54.5W	Chickadee	48.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
52.5W	Chickadee	46.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
50.5W	Chickadee	44.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
48.5W	Chickadee	42.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
46.5W	Chickadee	40.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
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42.5W	Chickadee	36.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
40.5W	Chickadee	34.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
38.5W	Chickadee	32.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
36.5W	Chickadee	30.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
34.5W	Chickadee	28.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
32.5W	Chickadee	26.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
30.5W	Chickadee	24.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
28.5W	Chickadee	22.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
26.5W	Chickadee	20.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
24.5W	Chickadee	18.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
22.5W	Chickadee	16.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
20.5W	Chickadee	14.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
18.5W	Chickadee	12.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
16.5W	Chickadee	10.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
14.5W	Chickadee	8.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
12.5W	Chickadee	6.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
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8.5W	Chickadee	2.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
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4.5W	Chickadee	-1.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
2.5W	Chickadee	-3.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
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-1.5W	Chickadee	-7.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-3.5W	Chickadee	-9.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-5.5W	Chickadee	-11.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-7.5W	Chickadee	-13.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-9.5W	Chickadee	-15.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-11.5W	Chickadee	-17.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-13.5W	Chickadee	-19.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-15.5W	Chickadee	-21.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-17.5W	Chickadee	-23.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-19.5W	Chickadee	-25.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-21.5W	Chickadee	-27.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-23.5W	Chickadee	-29.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-25.5W	Chickadee	-31.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-27.5W	Chickadee	-33.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-29.5W	Chickadee	-35.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-31.5W	Chickadee	-37.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-33.5W	Chickadee	-39.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-35.5W	Chickadee	-41.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-37.5W	Chickadee	-43.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-39.5W	Chickadee	-45.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-41.5W	Chickadee	-47.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-43.5W	Chickadee	-49.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-45.5W	Chickadee	-51.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-47.5W	Chickadee	-53.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-49.5W	Chickadee	-55.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-51.5W	Chickadee	-57.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-53.5W	Chickadee	-59.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-55.5W	Chickadee	-61.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-57.5W	Chickadee	-63.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-59.5W	Chickadee	-65.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-61.5W	Chickadee	-67.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-63.5W	Chickadee	-69.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-65.5W	Chickadee	-71.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-67.5W	Chickadee	-73.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-69.5W	Chickadee	-75.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-71.5W	Chickadee	-77.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-73.5W	Chickadee	-79.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-75.5W	Chickadee	-81.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-77.5W	Chickadee	-83.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-79.5W	Chickadee	-85.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-81.5W	Chickadee	-87.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-83.5W	Chickadee	-89.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-85.5W	Chickadee	-91.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-87.5W	Chickadee	-93.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-89.5W	Chickadee	-95.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-91.5W	Chickadee	-97.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-93.5W	Chickadee	-99.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-95.5W	Chickadee	-101.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-97.5W	Chickadee	-103.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-99.5W	Chickadee	-105.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-101.5W	Chickadee	-107.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-103.5W	Chickadee	-109.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-105.5W	Chickadee	-111.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-107.5W	Chickadee	-113.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-109.5W	Chickadee	-115.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-111.5W	Chickadee	-117.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-113.5W	Chickadee	-119.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-115.5W	Chickadee	-121.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-117.5W	Chickadee	-123.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-119.5W	Chickadee	-125.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-121.5W	Chickadee	-127.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-123.5W	Chickadee	-129.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-125.5W	Chickadee	-131.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-127.5W	Chickadee	-133.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-129.5W	Chickadee	-135.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-131.5W	Chickadee	-137.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-133.5W	Chickadee	-139.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-135.5W	Chickadee	-141.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-137.5W	Chickadee	-143.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-139.5W	Chickadee	-145.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-141.5W	Chickadee	-147.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-143.5W	Chickadee	-149.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-145.5W	Chickadee	-151.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-147.5W	Chickadee	-153.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-149.5W	Chickadee	-155.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-151.5W	Chickadee	-157.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-153.5W	Chickadee	-159.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-155.5W	Chickadee	-161.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-157.5W	Chickadee	-163.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-159.5W	Chickadee	-165.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-161.5W	Chickadee	-167.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-163.5W	Chickadee	-169.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-165.5W	Chickadee	-171.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-167.5W	Chickadee	-173.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-169.5W	Chickadee	-175.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-171.5W	Chickadee	-177.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-173.5W	Chickadee	-179.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-175.5W	Chickadee	-181.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-177.5W	Chickadee	-183.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-179.5W	Chickadee	-185.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-181.5W	Chickadee	-187.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-183.5W	Chickadee	-189.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-185.5W	Chickadee	-191.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-187.5W	Chickadee	-193.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-189.5W	Chickadee	-195.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-191.5W	Chickadee	-197.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-193.5W	Chickadee	-199.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-195.5W	Chickadee	-201.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-197.5W	Chickadee	-203.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-199.5W	Chickadee	-205.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-201.5W	Chickadee	-207.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-203.5W	Chickadee	-209.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-205.5W	Chickadee	-211.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-207.5W	Chickadee	-213.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-209.5W	Chickadee	-215.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-211.5W	Chickadee	-217.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-213.5W	Chickadee	-219.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-215.5W	Chickadee	-221.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-217.5W	Chickadee	-223.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-219.5W	Chickadee	-225.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-221.5W	Chickadee	-227.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-223.5W	Chickadee	-229.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-225.5W	Chickadee	-231.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-227.5W	Chickadee	-233.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-229.5W	Chickadee	-235.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-231.5W	Chickadee	-237.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-233.5W	Chickadee	-239.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-235.5W	Chickadee	-241.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-237.5W	Chickadee	-243.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-239.5W	Chickadee	-245.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-241.5W	Chickadee	-247.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-243.5W	Chickadee	-249.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-245.5W	Chickadee	-251.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-247.5W	Chickadee	-253.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-249.5W	Chickadee	-255.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-251.5W	Chickadee	-257.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-253.5W	Chickadee	-259.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-255.5W	Chickadee	-261.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-257.5W	Chickadee	-263.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-259.5W	Chickadee	-265.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-261.5W	Chickadee	-267.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-263.5W	Chickadee	-269.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-265.5W	Chickadee	-271.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-267.5W	Chickadee	-273.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-269.5W	Chickadee	-275.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-271.5W	Chickadee	-277.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-273.5W	Chickadee	-279.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-275.5W	Chickadee	-281.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-277.5W	Chickadee	-283.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-279.5W	Chickadee	-285.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-281.5W	Chickadee	-287.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-283.5W	Chickadee	-289.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-285.5W	Chickadee	-291.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-287.5W	Chickadee	-293.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-289.5W	Chickadee	-295.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-291.5W	Chickadee	-297.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-293.5W	Chickadee	-299.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-295.5W	Chickadee	-301.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-297.5W	Chickadee	-303.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-299.5W	Chickadee	-305.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-301.5W	Chickadee	-307.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-303.5W	Chickadee	-309.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-305.5W	Chickadee	-311.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-307.5W	Chickadee	-313.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-309.5W	Chickadee	-315.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-311.5W	Chickadee	-317.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-313.5W	Chickadee	-319.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-315.5W	Chickadee	-321.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-317.5W	Chickadee	-323.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-319.5W	Chickadee	-325.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-321.5W	Chickadee	-327.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-323.5W	Chickadee	-329.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-325.5W	Chickadee	-331.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-327.5W	Chickadee	-333.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-329.5W	Chickadee	-335.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-331.5W	Chickadee	-337.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-333.5W	Chickadee	-339.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-335.5W	Chickadee	-341.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-337.5W	Chickadee	-343.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-339.5W	Chickadee	-345.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-341.5W	Chickadee	-347.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-343.5W	Chickadee	-349.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0
-345.5W	Chickadee	-351.5W	+6	1.0W	1.0

Category	Value	Change	Value	Change	Value	Change
54-55	Public	100	-1	8.8	-8.8	-8.8
56-59	Five Oaks	100	-	-	-	10.0
60-61	Or Portland	100	+6	7.1	7.1	10.0
62-63	Green City	100	+6	7.1	7.1	10.0
64-65	Harwood Ave	100	+1	7.0	7.0	10.0
66-67	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
68-69	Or	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
70-71	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
72-73	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
74-75	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
76-77	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
78-79	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
80-81	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
82-83	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
84-85	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
86-87	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
88-89	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
90-91	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
92-93	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
94-95	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
96-97	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
98-99	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
100-101	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
102-103	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
104-105	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
106-107	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
108-109	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
110-111	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
112-113	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
114-115	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
116-117	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
118-119	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
120-121	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
122-123	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
124-125	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
126-127	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
128-129	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
130-131	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
132-133	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
134-135	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
136-137	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
138-139	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
140-141	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
142-143	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
144-145	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
146-147	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
148-149	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
150-151	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
152-153	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
154-155	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
156-157	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
158-159	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
160-161	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0
162-163	Harwood Ave	100	+10	11.4	11.4	10.0

[illegible]

0.8m	Scott Base	80	+0	9.4	40	22.9
0.8m	Stowish College	187	+1	8.1	48	37.9
0.8m	Stowish	118	+4	8.1	48	37.9
1.7m	Stowish	150	+1	8.2	35	20.5
7.2m	Searing Gunwamere	16	-1	1.4	51	24.0
0.8m	Stock Conversion	60	+0	8.9	13	25.6
0.1m	Sturtevant	40	+7			
0.8m	Town Centre	84	-1	1.3	19	38.6
0.8m	Trinidad Park	210	-3	4.6	16	19.1
0.4m	Udell House	69	-1	14.3	39	22.4
0.8m	Walton	882	-1	17.4	37	35.5
0.8m	Wardman	147	-1	6.7	48	48.6
0.8m	West & Country	26	+1	12.7	73	45.4

1.7m	Asace Bar Ports	250	+27	12.1	4.7	42.8
1.7m	Bar Commonwealth	278	+23	5.5	7.9	12.6
1.7m	California	271	+20	5.5	1.9	70.0
1.7m	Player (James)	128	+2	4.4	3.7	15.3
1.7m	Crab	278	+17	5.5	9.0	16.8
1.0m	Hunting Gibson	88	..	5.5	5.0	8.7
1.0m	Nature (A)	88	+1	4.4	7.5	10.4
1.0m	LOD	7	..	..	..	..
1.0m	Myne	137	+2	..	..	6.2
1.0m	Maryna Docks	209	..	..	..	1.8
1.0m	Marine Warehouse	137	+2	..	4.0	..
1.0m	P A O D G	352	+20	10.0	5.5	13.9
1.0m	Reverend Scary	147	+2	..	..	22.2
1.0m	Rumours (Whales)	104	..	..	..	16.5
1.0m	Tampall Coast	333	..	11.2	3.5	..

SHOES AND LEATHER						
000	Fl	220	+6	8.8	2.2	11.3
000	Corner Booth	132	+4	11.1	5.6	8.5
000	Headline Shoe	33	0	3.1	8.3	7.5
000	Lipari's Footwear	218	+16	7.2	3.3	9.8
000	Newbold & Burpin	51	+6	11.1	1.1	9.7
000	Pomero	29	0	6.6	6.7	8.7
000	Strong & Fisher	144	+2	5.7	3.4	8.9
000	Style	188	-10	6.8	4.3	6.7
<b>TEXTILES</b>						
700	Allied Text	364	0	14.4	3.5	17.9

[illegible]

Macmillan (Haggs)	80	+2	8.7	29	26.0	7.7
Manx	80	..	8.7	29	26.0	7.7
Northampton	82	-2	8.4	25	24.4	7.4
Newcastle	79	+5	8.2	27	25.1	7.5
Pandora 'A'	105	..	8.2	27	25.1	7.5
GSEI	772	+2	8.9	34	30.0	8.0
Shaw Carpels	38	..	3.8	12	11.8	3.8
Sliver	36	..	3.6	12	11.8	3.8
Smallshaw (P)	40	..	3.9	13	12.7	3.7
Stroudley	138	..	4.3	15	13.9	4.0
Tedford Jersey	81	..	2.9	7	7.2	2.7
Teddington	79	..	3.9	13	12.7	3.7
Townhouse	118	..	7.1	25	24.4	7.4
Troon	112	-1	4.4	14	13.0	4.0
Yorkdale	136	..	8.2	27	25.1	7.5

BAT	283	+30	12.8	3.8	5.7
IN	182	+30	12.2	4.5	10.7
ROTHSCHILD TS	185	+3	8.9	4.8	4.8



THE TIMES

## FINANCE AND INDUSTRY

Executive Editor Kenneth Fleet

## Lessons between the lines of Britain's trade figures

Britain's trade figures, on which the currency markets once monthly waited with bated breath, now pass almost unremarked. A world in which super-surplus Japan (or, for that matter West Germany, which has just turned in a trade surplus of about £15 billion for 1984) can see its currency weaken against the deficit-laden dollar is clearly not one in which trade and exchange rates are simply and positively related. Yet Britain is still by necessity a trading economy, and the newly-released balance of payments figures deserve some inspection.

They do not, on closer investigation, reinforce many of the clichés about the British economy. The trade balance, to be sure, shows a dismal plunge from a surplus of over £2 billion in 1982 to a deficit of over £4 billion in 1984. Some of this deterioration can be put down to the miners' strike, but if we dodge most of its effects by concentrating on the non-oil balance, the deficit is still depressing. This deteriorated from £2.5 billion in 1982 to a dreadful £11.4 billion last year.

By contrast, our service industries continued to turn in a surplus for Britain. The balance on "invisibles" rose from under £3 billion in 1982 to well over £4 billion in 1984.

Is this confirmation of the pattern, seen by many a cabinet minister, in which the services hold the key to future prosperity and employment? Well, that may be what the jobs figures suggest (the latest show that manufacturing employment was still shrinking at the end of last year, with the service industries accounting for the whole of the net increase in national employment) but it is not quite what our trade figures show. For if we abstract from price changes, the volume indices produced by the Central Statistical Office suggest that our goods exports - excluding oil - were by the end of 1984 about 13 per cent higher than in 1982, while our service "exports" were up less than 7 per cent, and still actually lower than in 1980.

Several caveats are immediately necessary. There was a sudden surge in goods exports in the final quarter of last year, during which export volumes shot up 10 per cent. This does suggest the presence of gremlins in the seasonal adjustment process, since there was a smaller but similar surge in late 1983. However, this is not enough to explain away the good news: a parallel improvement in French and German exports suggest an underlying Europe-wide improvement. In all three economies, goods exports are now running 15-20 per cent higher than at their low point in 1982.

On the services side, it is fair to point out that the calculation of price changes is even more hit-and-miss than for goods exports, and thus "volume" statistics have to be taken with half a tablespoon of salt. (The entire range of statistical information on Britain's service industries is criminally inadequate). It must also be said that the relative position of services has barely changed, while Britain's goods manufacturers have patently lost out to foreign competition: imports of goods other than oil were by the end of 1984 some 25 per cent higher than in 1982, while service "imports" were virtually unchanged.

Nevertheless, the figures provide some useful lessons. The first is that manufacturing industry can still deliver the goods, in favourable circumstances. The end-year spurt narrows the gap between Britain and West Germany, which appeared to be doing so much better out of the American boom than Britain (the value of German exports to the United States rose a spectacular 46 per cent last year). As two

brokers' analysts point out in some cheering recent research, Britain actually appears to be gaining slightly more than the Germans in European markets which is encouraging at a time when the focus of growth should be shifting from the United States to Europe.

But it would be wrong to conclude that manufacturing is all that matters in Britain's external accounts. For the figures demonstrate two other lessons, though the imperfections in the statistics make it hard to tease them out.

The first is that there are service industries that are doing quite as well in international trade. Indeed, that merit more attention in the struggle against protectionist barriers. Since 1982, the figures suggest that while the transport industry has been doing rather badly (with an increasing deficit on sea cargoes barely diminished by an improvement in aviation, the travel trade has been doing remarkably well. Most significant of all, perhaps, is the burgeoning financial services sector, which has managed to increase its surplus by a quarter in two years, to just short of £3 billion.

The second lesson is that part of our successful "invisible" performance stems not from the service sector but from the inflow of interest, profits and dividends on external assets. Our surplus on this account has more than doubled in two years, to over £2 billion. Excluding government transactions, it is closer to £4 billion. And, even so, this understates the economic value of these assets, for it does not reflect capital gains, which have become an increasingly important part of the yield from Britain's foreign assets as portfolio investment has risen after the abolition of exchange controls.

An analysis just published by the Treasury illustrates this pattern of change: Britain's net foreign assets have grown from a bare £12.5 billion, equivalent to 6.5 per cent of national income, in 1979, to £70 billion, or 22 per cent of national income, in 1984. This increase is roughly equal to North Sea oil's £56 billion contribution to the economy over the same period. It is frequently said that our one-off benefit from the North Sea has been shipped abroad to employ other nations' workforces, thus depriving British manufacturing of its investment lifeblood and earning a remarkably poor return.

The Treasury paper provides some interesting answers. First that the capital gains have been remarkable. In sterling terms, of the £57.5 billion increase in our net foreign assets, only £18 billion represents net new investment. The remaining two-thirds represents an increase in the sterling value of those assets. Given their concentration in the land of the rising dollar, this is perhaps not surprising, and - as Mr Paul Volcker keeps trying to remind the markets, what goes up can easily come down. But it does make it a trifle difficult to argue that, so far at least, British pension funds and the like have been making poor use of our money.

Secondly, that while today's foreign assets look large by comparison with the levels in the 1970s, they are in fact tiny by historical standards. In the middle of the 19th century, the value of Britain's net overseas assets was roughly equivalent to 40 per cent of national income, and by the eve of the First World War, they had risen to a peak of close on 180 per cent.

Sarah Hogg  
Economics Editor

## NEWS IN BRIEF

## Milk chief's move 'not sinister'

A former top executive of Unigate last night rejected reports that he left to join rival Northern Foods because of frustration with the milk group.

Mr Christopher Ball, who was managing director of Unigate Dairy Holdings, the main division of the group, said he thought a circular from stockbrokers Laurence, Prust was being unfair to the group.

"There is nothing sinister about my move. I have been invited to take on bigger and wider responsibilities. A lot of good work has gone on at Unigate and, if it performs anything like to plan, it will surprise many people."

Mr Ball added that his relationship with Mr John Clement, chairman of Unigate, had been good, "although he was surprised and disappointed when I decided to go."

million (£45.5 million) which is an increase of M526 million (£9.6 million) up on the same time last year.

The board says the improvement is mainly because of an "excellent" performance from its plantations division. The rise in business, mainly centred on increased trade with China, "has made a significant contribution to the improved results of Sime Darby Hong Kong."

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# Athletes divided over threats to Antrim event

By Pat Butcher

The British indoor season ended at Cosford on Saturday with an entertaining, narrow defeat of England by a United States team, and on a note of repudiation for the first major outdoor fixture, the United Kingdom championships, due in Antrim on May 25 and 26. There have been threats on sports teams going from the mainland to Northern Ireland following the car bomb which exploded harmlessly after the Northern Ireland v England football match in Belfast two weeks ago.

Todd Bennett and Rob Harrison, two of Britain's European indoor champions from Athens last weekend, have aired opposite views: Bennett, from Southampton, is fearful and certainly will not go; Harrison, perhaps pertinently, from Liverpool with an appropriate experience of how incidents between rival religious communities can get inflamed, has said he will definitely go.

Adc Mafe, one of England's heat winners on Saturday is holding a waiting brief. And that the attitude of the local organizers and of the British board in London, despite several other sports already cancelling forthcoming fixtures in the Six Counties.

Sport in Northern Ireland has so far enjoyed a privileged position outside the threat of racial attack, and athletes in particular can boast a strictly non-sectarian organization, both among its administrators and athletes, a factor which played heavily in the conception and realisation of the new track, named after and opened by Mary Peters, the local Olympic champion, 10 years ago.

Les Jones, the NIAAA secretary, also points to the far worst atmosphere, because of the hunger strikers, which prevailed in 1981, when there was no hint of an incident during the last UK championships to be held in Antrim.

There was a record 4,700 crowd for the Kodak Classic at Cosford on Saturday and it is to be hoped that next year the AAA officials and particularly Andy Norman, the new pro-

essional promotions officer, will work hard to ensure that the British board fixtures are as well attended as the England ones.

Considering the amount of money which has come into the sport in the last few months, it will be even more of an embarrassment next year to have Cosford as Britain's only fully appointed indoor stadium. The London docklands indoor track will not be ready until at least next year, and it is hoped that the new indoor stadium in Birmingham will be inaugurated with the match against the United States in 1987.

By that time we will know whether Mafe's talent has matured sufficiently to beat the Americans in any stadium. The 18-year-old has suffered a few hiccups this season, notably failing to reach the final of the European championship in Athens, but he ended it fluently with a 200 metres victory over Bennett in a new Cosford best of 21.03sec.

Bennett redeemed himself with a fine relay leg of 45.53sec, slightly faster than his world best last week, but a rolling start is worth a second. Mike Macfarlane, another Athens winner, equalled his Cosford best of 6.65sec in defeating Mel Latany in the 60 metres.

But Harrison, the third British victor from Athens, looked jaded, and although he broke four minutes for the mile as promised, he was a second and a half too late to become the first Briton to do it at Cosford. Clifton Bradeley, the 20-year-old from Stoke, got a British all-time best of 3min 57.81sec in third place, behind Jim Spivack, the American who was fifth in the Olympics.

Dave Lewis was an impressive winner of the 3,000 metres, a week after winning the national cross-country over nine muddy miles. Kirsty McDermott set a Commonwealth best of 2:39.8 for the little run, 1,000 metres, and Geoff Parsons added a centimetre to his own British high jump best, with 2.24 metres.

## RESULTS FROM COSFORD

**100 metres:** 1. M. Macfarlane (Eng) 16.51; 2. J. Spivack (USA) 16.70; 3. P. Bennett (Eng) 16.82. **200 metres:** 1. M. Macfarlane (Eng) 21.03; 2. J. Spivack (USA) 21.15; 3. P. Bennett (Eng) 21.28. **400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 47.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 47.25; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 47.38. **800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 1:58.24; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 1:58.56; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 1:59.08. **1,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 4:17.82; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 4:18.15; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 4:18.48. **3,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 8:35.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 8:35.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 8:35.78. **6,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 16:50.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 16:50.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 16:50.78. **12,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 33:40.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 33:40.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 33:40.78. **25,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 67:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 67:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 67:10.78. **51,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 1:34:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 1:34:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 1:34:10.78. **102,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 2:58:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 2:58:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 2:58:10.78. **204,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 5:56:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 5:56:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 5:56:10.78. **409,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 11:52:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 11:52:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 11:52:10.78. **819,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 23:44:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 23:44:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 23:44:10.78. **1,638,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 47:28:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 47:28:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 47:28:10.78. **3,276,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 94:56:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 94:56:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 94:56:10.78. **6,553,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 189:52:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 189:52:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 189:52:10.78. **13,107,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 379:44:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 379:44:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 379:44:10.78. **26,214,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 758:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 758:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 758:48:10.78. **52,428,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 1517:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 1517:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 1517:36:10.78. **104,857,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 3035:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 3035:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 3035:12:10.78. **209,715,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 6088:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 6088:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 6088:24:10.78. **419,430,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 12176:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 12176:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 12176:48:10.78. **838,860,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 24353:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 24353:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 24353:36:10.78. **1,677,721,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 48707:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 48707:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 48707:12:10.78. **3,355,443,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 97414:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 97414:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 97414:24:10.78. **6,710,886,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 194828:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 194828:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 194828:48:10.78. **13,421,772,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 389657:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 389657:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 389657:36:10.78. **26,843,545,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 779315:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 779315:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 779315:12:10.78. **53,687,091,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 1558630:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 1558630:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 1558630:24:10.78. **107,374,182,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 3117260:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 3117260:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 3117260:48:10.78. **214,748,364,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 6234520:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 6234520:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 6234520:36:10.78. **429,496,729,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 12469040:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 12469040:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 12469040:12:10.78. **858,993,459,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 24938080:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 24938080:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 24938080:24:10.78. **1,717,986,918,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 49876160:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 49876160:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 49876160:48:10.78. **3,435,973,836,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 99752320:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 99752320:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 99752320:36:10.78. **6,871,947,673,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 199504640:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 199504640:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 199504640:12:10.78. **13,743,895,347,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 398809280:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 398809280:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 398809280:24:10.78. **27,487,790,694,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 797618560:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 797618560:48:10.45; 3. J. 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Spivack (USA) 51047587840:12:10.78. **3,518,437,208,883,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 102095175680:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 102095175680:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 102095175680:24:10.78. **7,036,874,417,766,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 204190351360:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 204190351360:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 204190351360:48:10.78. **14,073,748,835,532,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 408380702720:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 408380702720:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 408380702720:36:10.78. **28,147,497,671,065,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 816761405440:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 816761405440:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 816761405440:12:10.78. **56,294,995,342,131,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 1633522810880:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 1633522810880:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 1633522810880:24:10.78. **112,589,990,684,262,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 3267045621760:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 3267045621760:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 3267045621760:48:10.78. **225,179,981,368,524,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 6534091243520:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 6534091243520:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 6534091243520:36:10.78. **450,359,962,737,049,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 13068182487040:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 13068182487040:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 13068182487040:12:10.78. **900,719,925,474,099,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 26136364974080:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 26136364974080:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 26136364974080:24:10.78. **1,801,439,850,948,198,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 52272729948160:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 52272729948160:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 52272729948160:48:10.78. **3,602,879,701,896,396,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 104545459896320:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 104545459896320:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 104545459896320:36:10.78. **7,205,759,403,792,793,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 209090919792640:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 209090919792640:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 209090919792640:12:10.78. **14,411,518,807,585,587,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 418181839585280:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 418181839585280:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 418181839585280:24:10.78. **28,823,037,615,171,174,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 836363679170560:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 836363679170560:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 836363679170560:48:10.78. **57,646,075,230,342,348,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 1672727342841120:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 1672727342841120:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 1672727342841120:36:10.78. **115,292,150,460,684,697,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 3345454685682240:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 3345454685682240:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 3345454685682240:12:10.78. **230,584,300,921,369,395,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 6690909371364480:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 6690909371364480:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 6690909371364480:24:10.78. **461,168,601,842,738,790,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 13471818642848960:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 13471818642848960:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 13471818642848960:48:10.78. **922,337,203,685,477,580,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 26943637285697920:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 26943637285697920:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 26943637285697920:36:10.78. **1,844,674,407,370,955,161,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 53887274571395840:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 53887274571395840:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 53887274571395840:12:10.78. **3,689,348,814,741,910,323,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 107774549142791680:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 107774549142791680:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 107774549142791680:24:10.78. **7,378,697,629,483,820,646,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 215549098285583360:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 215549098285583360:48:10.45; 3. J. 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Spivack (USA) 689757114514667520:36:10.78. **472,236,648,286,964,521,369,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 1379414286283733120:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 1379414286283733120:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 1379414286283733120:12:10.78. **944,473,296,573,929,042,739,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 2758828572567466240:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 2758828572567466240:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 2758828572567466240:24:10.78. **1,888,946,593,147,858,085,478,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 5517657145334932480:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 5517657145334932480:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 5517657145334932480:48:10.78. **3,777,893,186,295,716,170,956,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 11035314286283733120:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 11035314286283733120:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 11035314286283733120:36:10.78. **7,555,786,372,591,432,341,913,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 22070628572567466240:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 22070628572567466240:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 22070628572567466240:12:10.78. **15,111,572,745,182,864,683,827,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 5517657145334932480:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 5517657145334932480:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 5517657145334932480:24:10.78. **30,223,145,490,765,729,367,654,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 11035314286283733120:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 11035314286283733120:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 11035314286283733120:48:10.78. **60,446,290,981,531,459,734,708,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 22070628572567466240:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 22070628572567466240:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 22070628572567466240:36:10.78. **120,892,581,963,062,918,869,417,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 44141257145334932480:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 44141257145334932480:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 44141257145334932480:12:10.78. **241,785,163,926,125,837,737,734,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 88282514286283733120:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 88282514286283733120:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 88282514286283733120:24:10.78. **483,570,327,852,251,675,475,469,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 176565028572567466240:48:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 176565028572567466240:48:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 176565028572567466240:48:10.78. **967,140,655,704,503,350,950,939,200 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 353130057145334932480:36:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 353130057145334932480:36:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 353130057145334932480:36:10.78. **1,934,281,311,408,006,701,901,878,400 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 706260114286283733120:12:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 706260114286283733120:12:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 706260114286283733120:12:10.78. **3,868,562,622,816,013,403,803,756,800 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 1412520228572567466240:24:10.12; 2. P. Bennett (Eng) 1412520228572567466240:24:10.45; 3. J. Spivack (USA) 1412520228572567466240:24:10.78. **7,737,125,245,632,026,807,607,513,600 metres:** 1. J. Spivack (USA) 282504057145334932480:48:10.12; 2. P. 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## THE INCORPORATED SOCIETY OF VALUERS AND AUCTIONEERS

### SECRETARY

to the Education & Membership Officer  
A secretary, with good typing and shorthand, is required for varied and interesting work in the Education & Membership Department of this professional society in SW1.  
Salary not less than £2,250 + L.V.s. 4 weeks' leave.

Applications to:  
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3 Cadogan Gate, London, SW1  
01-235 2282

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£7,500 +

International Cosmetics Co. seek out-

going administrative with lots of initiative

and a sense of humour to assist the

marketing manager, arrange and

attend conferences visit stores and

run busy dept in his absence lots of

involvement for right person call

Jenny Bennett on

2448 8211

Shift Plan Rec Cons

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#### TYPIST

required for Mayfair Property Co

prestigious offices. Friendly

atmosphere. Salary £7,000 pa.

Tel 499 0104

ESTATE

#### AGENCY

Receptionist required for

busy financial office excellent

remuneration paid for right

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Tel: Fiona on 351 3131

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Are you an experienced

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salary. Are you a typist with

an eye for detail? And do you

combine a mature personality

with a strong sense of humour?

If so, and you would like a

challenge to enter the fast-paced

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Efficient, reliable, adaptable

Secretary/PA. 25-30, with

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unimpeachable

temperament and

organizational brilliance.

Travel and/or PR experience

useful. Small, friendly, non-

smoking office. Salary

£7,500-8k, 4 weeks holiday -

post travel perks. No

agencies.

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## PA/SECRETARY

TO £7,500

We need an organized person with

2-3 years experience to act as

PA/Secretary in the sales dept. of

our electronics Co. requiring lots of

secretarial typing, filing, typing,

answering telephone enquiries and

30-40 admin. typing to compile

exhibitions and advertising this is

an interesting job with lots of variety.

For further details please phone Gary

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434 3344

ADVERTISING

ADMIN/COPY

£8,000

Large Ad. Agency are looking for a

good organizer to take with studies

and clients. Modern office, very busy

telephone work. Recruitment or

media exp. pref. Home. Tel. Thame-

shire on 01-262 8111. South East Rec

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INTERIOR DESIGN

Secretary/Assistant

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North Kensington.

Salary negotiable.

Telephone Barbara Wyatt

629 2421

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*[Faint, illegible handwritten notes]*



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01-837 2104 and 01-278 9232

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### CHALET HOLIDAYS FROM £154

SELF-CATERING FROM £129

March Savings of up to £110!

Top resorts dramatically reduced on 9th, 16th and 23rd March

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### COOK

Charity catering and domestic situations for small and large scale catering. Home help, housewife, etc. Please apply to: 721 2777 (No agencies)

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## QUEENSGATE SW7

Lovely views over museum park

Superb 4 bedroom house on top of Queensgate SW7

4 bedrooms, 2 bathrooms, 2 reception rooms, large well equipped kitchen/breakfast room. Rear garden 2450 sq ft. Also available beautiful 1 bedroom flat - fitted & furnished to very high standards. Rent £190 pw.

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